¶ A discourse of the nauigation which the Portugales doe make to the Realmes and Prouinces of the East partes of the worlde, and of the knowledge that growes by them of the great thinges, which are in the Dominions of *China*.

Written by Barnardine of Escalanta, of the Realme of Galisia Preest.

Translated out of Spanish into English, by *Iohn Frampton*.

¶ *Imprinted in London at* the three Cranes in the Vinetree, by Thomas Dawson.

1579.

T D

To the right woorſhipfull Maiſter Edwarde Dier, of the Court eſquire, Iohn Frampton wiſheth encreaſe of woorſhip and of all felicitie.

THere was brought mee not long agoe right woorſhipful Sir, out of Spayne, a diſcourſe in the Spaniſh tongue, of the Nauigation that the Portugales haue to the kingdomes and prouinces of the Eaſte partes of the worlde, and of the intelligence of the ſame Portugale Nation, which they nowe of late haue gotten in thoſe partes of the greatneſſe of the Dominion, and politike gouernement of that Famous Countrey *China*: And finding in the ſame diſcourſe a verification, by newe, late, and preſent experience, of this our age and preſent time of many things, written long agoe by *Paulus Venetus*, which woorke of *Paulus* I did tranſlate, and about a yeere paſt dedicated to your worſhip: I became the more deſirous alſo to tranſlate this into the Engliſh, & the rather by cauſe this worke ſeemed to haue a certaine affinitie in matter, and alſo conteyned great varietie of thinges, not conteyned in the woorke of the ſayde *Paulus Venetus*: And fynding now in England many excellent men in the Art of Nauigation, & as well able to endure extreame heate, as extreame colde, and to croſſe the burnte lyne, as alſo able to paſſe the

colde Zone, and froſen Sea, and with all youth and frye of the Realme, bothe infinitly abounding: and alſo exceedingly inflamed with deſire to attempte newe diſcoueries, I the rather decreed the tranſlation heereof, and was fully perſwaded that the great Almightie GOD hath wrought the one and the other, to the ende that hee woulde haue his ſonne Ieſus that hath brought ſaluation vnto the worlde, knowen to nations not yet diſcouered. For what more pleaſante Sacrifyce can wee offer in this life, vnto our GOD, then to labour in all that euer wee may, to bring the Barbarous to Ciuilitie, the Rude to knowledge, the ſuperſtitious to the true & liuely worſhip of his name, to win them from darkneſſe to light, fró crueltie to curteſie, from vanitie to veritie, from death vnto life? If wee bee not borne to profite our ſelues, but to ſeeke the aduaũcemẽt of Gods glory, how commendable an enterpriſe is that? how highly to be wiſhed? how much to be furthered, which not onely encreaſeth the profite of our countrey, but augmenteth the nũber of the faithful. Therfore God hauing decreed to make himſelfe knowen as well by our Engliſhe Nation in ſome quarters of the vnknowen worlde, as he hath of late yeeres beene by the Spaniarde in Weſt: and by the Portugale in the Eaſte. And beeyng mooued to take in hande this ſmall tranſlation, by perſonnes of ſundry callynges, and eſpecially by diuerſe moſte excellent Pilottes, Maiſters, and towardly young Marriners, muche exceedyng in knoweledge and godly lyfe many of that profeſſion that haue been heretofore: I haue, other needful buſines ſet aparte, perfourmed theyr requeſte: And the thing that I much deſired, for the loue I beare to good diſcoueries: And now dedicate the ſame to your woorſhyp, as a ſpeciall fauourer of all good knowledges, and of all enterpiſes tending too the glory of GOD, the honour of your Prince, and the publike benefite of your Countrey, beſeeching your woorſhip too take the ſame this my tranſlation

ſlation in good part, as a poore ſhew of a mynde willyng to requite ſome parte of your bountie and benefite receiued at your handes, not doubting but that this maye geue lyght to our Nation and woorke in many reſpectes benefite too all ſuche, as ſhall by the Northeaſt, or by the Northweſt attempt diſcoueries of Dominions and Territories, wtihin the circle Artike, or with out the ſame to the Tropicke of Cancer. And thus wiſhing vntoo your woorſhippe the fauour of Almightie G O D with encreaſe of all knowledge Diuine and Humane, I take my leaue and ceaſſe to trouble you. From London this firſt day of October.

1579.

Your worſhips in that he
may, at commaundement.

John Frampton.

¶ To the excellent Lorde, Don Christopher de Roias, Sandouall, Archbishop of Seuill, *Barnardine of* Escalanta, wisheth all honour. &c.

Most excellent Lord, the haughtie and high purposes, and the wonderfull enterprises of our Spaniardes haue beene so great, that they haue not well neere suffered in all the compasse of the whole worlde, any Seas, any Islandes, or Territories, that they haue not runne vnto; and whereof they haue not woone some knowledge, against the opinion of the olde Philosophers, and Cosmographers: wherein they haue founde such diuersitie of people, and so many differences of lawes, and superstitiõs, and so many sorts of gouernmentes, and such diuersitie of manners, that they haue no small admiration to thinke of the same; and namely of that which they doe reporte, of the Maiestie and power of the king of *China*: who being a prince geuen to idolatrie, and that way most vaine; As also his subiectes, in the obseruation of the Gentiles lawes, are notwithstanding endued with so great wisedome and discretion in naturall thinges, and in the gouernment of their common wealthes, that no other nations (bee they neuer so politike) seeme to passe thẽ, or haue therein the aduantage of them; nor yet to haue the like wittes, for all maner of Artes, Which haue beene the causes that mooues me too write the thinges of this realme, (which haue beene knowen as well by relation of persons of credite that haue beene in it; and also of some of the naturall people of that Countrey of *China*, that haue been brought into Portugale) and to dedicate the same too your excellent Lordship, acknowledging my selfe in all thinges moste bounde vntó you my Lorde. I desire your lordship to accept of this little seruice supplied with good will, as of a poore token of my good gratefull minde, which onely hath beene but to geue all honour to your name.

A Discourse

the Portugales doe make to the Realmes and Prouinces of the East partes of the worlde, and of the knowledge which they haue of the great thinges that are in the Realme of *China*.

¶ The first Chapter sheweth of the beginning that the kingdome of Portugale had, and of the succesſe it had from the time that the king *Don Iohn* the fyrſt did conquer *Ceuta* in *Barbarie*.

AMongeſt many knightes of the ſtates of Almane, Flaunders, and France, whiche came vntoo the longe Warres that the kinges of Spayne had with the Moores, which had conquered the greateſt part of Spaine, after the ouerthrow of that vnfortunate king Don Rodrigo, there continued in the time of the king Don Alonſo, the ſixth of Caſtile, and Leon, whiche gote Toledo, the Earle Don Ramon, ſonne to Williã earle of Burgondie, and Don Ramon Earle of Toloſa & S. Gill in Fraunce, & Don Henry of Vezancon his coſin, accoꝛding to the opinion of ſome writers, as Chriſtian Pꝛinces deſirous of honour and fame that came too ſerue him, with many other knightes in thoſe warres that he had againſt Lucef Abendefim, king of the Amorabides, who at that time had paſt from Affrica, and had made him ſelfe Loꝛd of the Moores of Spaine which were reſident in Andaluzia, and too ſhew him ſelfe thankful to theſe Loꝛds after they had ſhewed theyꝛ valiauntneſſe and vertue on theyꝛ meetinges and fightes that they had with the Almorabides and to binde them to greater enterpꝛiſes, and to allure other ſtraunge Pꝛinces, & knightes alſo to come to his ayde, hee ioyned him ſelfe to them in mar-

riage and affinitie, Maryng the Earle Don Ramon of Burgondie with the Lady Vrraca his legittimate daughter and inheritour of his Realmes, geuing hym the title of the Earle and Gouernour of Galizia, and the Earle of Toloſa, and Don Henrie, with the Lady Elvira, and the Lady Tereſa, his baſtarde daughters whiche he had of Lady Ximena muuez de Guzma: geuing to Don Henry certayne lande which the king Don Fernando his father the firſte king of Caſtile, and other kinges his predeceſſours had gotten of the Moores in the borders of the Realmes of Leon and Galizia, which were the Cities of Coimbra, Viſeo, and Lanego, with the Prouince of Vera, and the Cities of the Porte Braga and Guimareus, and all that precinct which is betweene the two Riuers Duero and Minon with title of Earle of Portugale, becauſe hee ſhoulde be a defender of them, making to him a firme gift of the right of the inheritaunce too him and too his ſucceſſion deſcending of this Matrimonie: With condition that they ſhoulde bee bounde in knowledge of Superiorite, to go to the Parliaments of Leon, (into whoſe precinct that Countrey doeth fall) and at all times when the kinges had warres with the (Moores) that they ſhoulde be bounde to goe and ſerue them with three hundred horſemen, which was at that time all the power that might be in Portugale: and that they ſhoulde alſo pay certaine yeerely Tribute vppon paine, and that yf they fayled any thing of this, they ſhould looſe the ſtate, and that it ſhoulde be returned backe too the kingdome of Leon.

Ann. 1279. And although that all theſe burdens were ſet at libertie by a gifte that the king Don Alonſo the wiſe made in Seuil, againſt the will of the Earle Don Nunon de Lara & of other knightes beyng Spaniardes, to the Infante Don Dionis, ſonne to the Ladie Beateris, his naturall daughter which hee had by the Ladie Mayor Guillen de Guſman, and of Don Alonſo the fifth kyng of Portugale, which married with her and had in dowry the Countreis of Algarve which the kyng Don Alonſo, and the holy king Don Fernando gate, alwaies

wayes the king Don Dionis and his succeſſours, as Catholique and true Princes, continued the Warres against the Moores of Spayne, finding thēſelues ſometimes in the fauor of the kings of Caſtile, and particularly the king Don Alonſo, called the Braue, when he gaue the battel neere to Tarifa, vntyll that the king Don Iohn the famous, being the firſt of this name, by the battel of Aliubarota, and by other ſubtil practiſes worthie of his name, hee determined as a moſt warlike Prince to paſſe into Affrica, & to cōquer the Townes of the Sea Coaſt nere adioyning to him on the Weſt ſide, carrying with him in his companie the Infantes Don Edward his eldeſt ſonne, and heire apparant, and Don Peter Duke of Coimbra, and Don Henry his other ſonnes, and many other Lords & Knightes of his Realme, wherewithall hee might get the Citie of Ceuta, ſtanding in the Streighte, where the two Seas do meete, the Ocean and Mediterrane, and where Affrica & Europa are deuided, right ouer againſt Gibralter in the diſtaunce of foure leages ouerthwart.

¶ The ſeconde Chapter ſheweth of the diligence that the infante *Don Henry* did vſe as well to knowe of the *Moores*, of *Ceuta*, and the Prouinces of the blacke people of *Ialofe*, as alſo for his armed ſhips which he ſent in the diſcouerie of the coaſts of *Guinea* euen vnto his death &c.

AND that did beſt ſhewe himſelfe for the getting of Ceuta, was Infant Don Henry with the Knightes and Gentlemen of his bande. And as hee was a Prince moſte religious, and deſirous to augment the Chriſtian faith, with his valiauntneſſe: So hee did much indeuour to enquire of the Mores,

the Prouinces and Nations, neareſt adioyning to them wher-
of hee came to haue knowledge, and ſpecially of the Moores
neareſt adioyning to the Deſertes, which they call Sahara,
and of the Azeneges with the blacke people of Ialofe, and hee
did it with the better will, becauſe hee woulde haue his name
ſpred abroade in the worlde, by ſo great an enterpryſe, ſo taken
in hande, and alſo by ſending ſhippes in the diſcouerie of the
Coaſte of Ginea, whereof he had ſome knowledge by Geo-
graphie, to the which he was affectioned. And ſo in returning
the kyng his foꝛmer victoꝛies to Portugall hee went to bee
Reſident in Algarue in a ſmall Towne of his owne to geue
oꝛder foꝛ this Nauigation, foꝛ the which certaine Captaines
of his did continue there foꝛ certaine yeeres, and durſt not
paſſe from the Cape Boiador which lieth in twentie ſeuen de-
grees and a half of height on the Noꝛth ſide, Eaſt and Weſt
from the gran Canaria, in thirteene Leagues ouerthwarte,
and foꝛ to come foꝛth of the ſight of the Coaſte, which they
leaue behinde them moꝛe then foꝛtie Leages into the Sea,
in the Weſt courſe, with a certaine pointe vnder that water
which doeth come foꝛth in length of ſixe Leages that by
reaſon of the Tydes that rũneth there, the water is ſo moued
in ſuch ſoꝛt, that it ſeemeth to leape and to ſeethe, which did
put them in great feare, thinking that they had ben ſhoulde
and then it was a newe thing foꝛ them, and difficulte that
they had ſo gone from the land foꝛ to vubble it, wherewith all
they returned without hope to paſſe foꝛward, making ſome
entraunce into the habitations of the Moores that dwelt in
the Sea Coaſte foꝛ to ſatiſfie the infant.

In one of theſe voyages they diſcouered in foule wea-
ther which did open vnto thẽ from the firme land, the Ilandes
which are called Puerto ſancto, and the Madera, whiche
Ilandes the infant dyd commaunde to inhabite, becauſe hee
was certified that they were temperate and fruitfull, and foꝛ
that they were not inhabited with the people that were Bar-
barous, as the Ilands of Canaria were. The which Ilands,

they

they had knowledge of, how that they were discouered by a Frenche knight, called Iohn de Betancur, which had conquered them with the licence of the Tutors of the king Don Iohn the seconde of Castile, whiche were the queene Ladie Caterin his mother, and the infant Don Fernando his vncle of good memorie, who came to bee king of Aragon, and father of the kinges Don Alonso of Naples, and Don Iohn his brother, which did succeede in that of Aragon, and Sicilia, and Grand father to the king Don Fernando the Catholike. These Ilandes stande in the thirtieth three degrees of height Northeast and Southwest, from the barre of Lisbebron, in one hundred and fiftie Leages trauies, & be distant frō the Canaria, at the least 80. Leages North Northwest, and South Southeast. The Infant caused the discouerie of them to bee knowen to Poope Martin the fifth, who at that tyme was president in the Catholike Churche, and too other Princes of Chrisiendome: of the which there was restrainte for certaine yeres, vntil ỳ one Gill Yannes being borne in the towne of Logos wold passe ỳ cape Boiador, being a feareful thing in the opinion of Saylers of that time, who was cause from that time forward that Nauigation was continued the longer; and other Captaines comming to the Riuer which is called of Golde, because they brought from thence the firste that came into Portugale, and it standeth vnder the Tropick of Cancer, in the twentieth three degrees and a half of height and the Cape of Blanco, and Ilandes of Arguin standeth in twentie where the king Don Alonso, his Cosin did commaunde after that, to builde a forte, and beyonde the Riuer which the naturall people of the Countrey do call Obedec, & the Portugales do call Sauage, which doeth deuide the Countries of the Moores Azeneues, and the Ialofes, euen vntoo the Capeverdes, which is of the moste knowen places in the West Ocean in the fifteene degrees of the North side, and to the Weast part of him are within one hundred Leages of Trauisim, the Ilands which are called of Gill Yannez and threescore Leagues beyonde, that is the Great Riuer

and eighty beyond that of Nunno, and in ſeuen degrees and two Terces the mountaine Lioa, whiche was the laſte time that any diſcouerie was made in the lyfe of this moſte Chriſtiã Infant; leauing to the king his Coſin, & to his ſucceſſours the open way for the great Nauigations and roades which his ſubiectes haue made, and doe make by all the Eaſt Countries with great prayſe and eſtimation of the Portugale Nation.

The thirde Chapter of the diſcouerie which was made of the coaſtes of *Ginea* in the time King *Don Alonſo* vnto his death, & of the perſons that the King *Don Iohn* his ſonne ſent by the Sea Mediterran, wherby they myght bryng relation of the ſtates and trades of *India*; and of the Embaſſage hee ſent to the kyng of *Æthiopia*.

TH E Infante beyng dead, it did ſeeme too the King Don Alonſo, that it woulde bee a let to him if hee ſhoulde vnderſtande farther in theſe diſcoueries, by reaſon he minded to conquer Tanger and Arzila, & other forces that were neere to the Streightes, which with great courage hee gote of the Moores: and for the pretence ỳ he had of the Realmes of Caſtile, for his Coſin the Lady Iane daughter to the Queene his ſiſter, the ſecond wife of the king don Henry the 4. with whõ hee minded to marry, hee gaue the diſcouerie for rent to a ſubiect of his called Iohn Gomez dwelling in Liſbon, for two thowſande fiue hundred Ducates, for fiue yeeres, with condition that hee ſhoulde bee bounde to diſcouer within the ſayde time fiue hundred Leagues of Coaſte, beyond the mountain

tayne Lioa, This man which was so bound, did accomplishe his bande very well, discouering all these Coastes which they call the Mina, whiche stretch in length in the course of the East and West vntyll they came to the Cape of saint Catherin that standeth in two degrees & a halfe of height, towards the South side: so there remaineth behinde discouered, the ilandes of the Prince, and of Fernando, and those of Sancto Thome being vnder the lyne Equinoctiall.

In this time died the king Don Alonso, and Don Iohn the second his sonne succeeded him, who sent foorth a Captain of his called Diego de Acambina, with a great number of shippes to this Conquest, who caused to bee builte the Castell of saint George with consent of the Prince. Caramansa Lord of that Countrey. Other Captaines of his, discouered the Realmes of Congo, and of Beni, and the rest of the same Coaste, whiche is to bee vnderstoode from the North too the South, vntyl they passe the famous Cape of Buena Esperanca, being the first, Bartholomew Dias one of the officers of his house. Of some Embassadours of these blacke kniges which they sent to Portugale, and particularly of those of the king of Beni, the king Don Iohn had knowledge, that farre within the countrey, there was a mightie Prince, vnto whom some of them gaue obedience, and by the maners and tokens that bee declared of him, it seemed that bee was a Christian, whereof it came to bee agreed vppon that hee should be Prester Iohn, of whom then there was knowledge of, and of the trade and riches of the India, by meanes of certayne religious men Spaniardes that had beene at Hierusalem, and like wise of other that were come into Spaine. And for to certifie him self the better of the Trade and Nauigation, and Portes of the India, and of the power of Prester Iohn, and of his religion, of whom he minded to fauour him self, for the trade of the Spicerie, hee sent one Peter de Covillana seruaunt of his house, and also Alonso de Paiba by the way of Italie that he might bryng him a true relation of all. These men went to Naples, and from thence they imbarked them selues for the Ann. 148

Rhodes, and from thence to Alexandria and too Cairo which at that time was a Royall ſeate of the Soldans of Ægypt, vntill a fewe yeeres after, in the yeere a thouſande fiue hundred and ſixteene. Selim Emperour of the Turkes ouercame and ſlewe in a battayle neere to Damaſco, the Soldan, Campſon Gaurio, and made himſelfe Lorde of all thoſe Realmes, and from thence they went too the Citie of Adem whiche ſtandeth at the entrie of Sinus Arabicos, whiche is called the redde Sea, in the part of Arabia Fœlix, where they departed, one from another: The Paiba towardes Æthiopia, and the Covillana towardes the India, where they agreed togeather to returne and ioyne themſelues againe at a certaine time in the Citie of Cairo. anno. 1516.

Covillana did embarke himſelfe in a ſmall ſhyppe of the Moores, and came to Cananor, and from thence to Calicut, and Soa, the moſte principall Portes of that Coaſte of the India, and hauing well enfourmed himſelfe to the ſtates, Trafficke, and riches thereof, he returned from thence to the Mine of Zofala, which is in Æthiopia, aboue Ægypt, in nienteene degrees of the height of the Southſide, betweene Muſambike and the Cape of Buena Eſperanca, and from thence he returned too Aden, and to Cairo, where hee vnderſtoode that, Paiba his companion died a fewe dayes before in that Citie.

And beyng readie to departe for Portugale hee met with two Iewes of that Realme which went to ſeeke after him, with the king Don Iohn his order, becauſe that one of them had beene in Babylon which are called Bagodad amongeſt thoſe ſmall Riuers of the riuer Euphrates that doe run iointly with that of Tiger into Sinus Perſicos, hee ſhoulde refourme him of the Trade and Traffike of the Flande of Armos, which was in the entrie of it in twentie and niene degrees of height of the North ſide, where hee ſaide, that thyther came all the Spices and Riches of the India, with expreſſe

presse cõmaundement to Covillana, that if hee had not founde Prester Iohn, hee shoulde not returne without knowledge of him, and that with the other Iewe hee woulde sende him relation of all that hee had seene, and vnderstoode in his voyage the whiche he did very effectually, and when hee had dispatched hym, hee returned with the other to Adem, where they dyd embarke them selues to returne to Ormos. And the thinges of that Iland beeyng noted, he left him there, that hee might returne by lande with the Casilas, which are Carriers that carried Spices from thence to the Cities of Alexandrie, Damasco in Suria, & that he should continue goyng vppon his iourney vntill hee came to Portugale. Hee returnyng to the red Sea, and wente towardes the Courte of the Emperour of Æthiopia called by his owne people Alexander, of whom hee was receiued with countenance of great contentment esteeming much the embassage because it came from a Christian Prince from the partes of Europe. And although that with all speede Covillana returned, yet he had not in this good hap. For that within a fewe dayes died the Emperour Alexãder, And Nante his brother which did succeede him, kept him there by force; wherewithall he losse the hope to returne anye more too Portugale: And by the aduice and relation hee sente with the Iewes, and with others by diuers wayes, the king Don Iohn determined too sende some Shippes by the Nauigation of the Cape of Buena Esperanca vntoo the Trade of the Spicerie of the India.

And because that in this time which was in the yeere of one thousande foure hundred nientie and two: they begunne too discouer the Weast Indias by Christopher Colon beyng a Ginoues borne, who was the first that durst take so valiaunt an enterprise in hande by the commaundement of the Catholike kinges Don Fernando and Ladie Elizabe. These kings for the auoydingof differences, made sute to the Ann. 1492.

high

high Biſhop Alexander the ſixth (who then was Preſident in the Catholike Church) that it woulde pleaſe him to appoint out and confirme to them theyr diſcoueries. And the Pope beyng informed, did graunt too the kynges of Caſtile, the conqueſt of the Indias, Ilandes and landes, that ſhould be diſcouered in the Weſt parts, and to the kings of Portugales that of Affrica, and the Countries of the Eaſte partes in equall portions: ſo that it might bee vnderſtoode the Nauigation from one hundred leagues, more too the Weſtwarde of the Ilandes of Cape verde: whereof the king Don Iohn found him ſelfe agreeued, becauſe he gaue him no more ſpace or Circuite towardes the Weſt. And ſo it was graunted with the will and conſent of the Catholike kinges, other three hundred and ſixtie leages more towardes the Weſt. The king Don Iohn not vnderſtanding at that time, howe hurtful it would be to his ſucceſſours for the pretence of the Ilandes of Malucas, and becauſe his life is waxed ſhorte, it fortuned not in his time this Nauigation ſhould be begun, but was reſerued by a diuine prouidence for the king Don Emanuel his Coſin that ſhoulde ſucceed him in thoſe Realmes.

The fourth Chapter how that the king *Don Emanuel*, ſent by the way of Cape *Buena Eſperança*, *Don Vaſco de Gama* with an embaſſage to the king of *Calicut*, & of the ſucceſſe he had vntil he returned to Portugal.

AND although that the King Don Iohn had prepared ſhips for the Nauigatiõ of the Indias. Whẽ he died, yet ỹ king Don Iohn Emanuel, coulde not ſet forward this iourney vntil the 2. yeere of his raigne, w̃ was in the yeere 1491. when as he ſent, (although that they of his counſell were of contrarie opi-

nion

nion, yet thē I say he sent Don Vasco de Gama, a knight of his house and other twoo captaines in three shippes with ambassadge vnto the king of Calicut, too the ende he might bee in league with him and with other kings of the same coast of India, to obteine of them, that hee and his successors might haue the trade of the spicerie graunted vnto them. Nowe you shal vnderstand that the said Don Vasco departed with these shippes, leauing the king and his court and al others very sad, bicause he went vpon a voiage, so long, so daungerous, & so vnknowen. And hee was fyue monethes in the Sea before hee could get as farre as the cape of Buena Esperanca by reason in those daies the Portugales sailed not by the Bowlyng in the hye Seas, in such sort as they do now, but alwaies wēt neere to the coast of Ginea. For although that in the tyme of the king Don Iohn, they had knowledge of degrees, and of the Astrolobe: yet the Pilots which they caried with them, durst not put themselues into any gulfe as they now do, which doo runne from the tyme that they departe from Lisshebron towards the south west, vntil they passe the Ilands of Puerto Sancto and the Medera, and from thence towardes the south southeast to the sight of the Ilands of Canaria, and then south passing betweene the firme lande, and the Ilands of Cape Verde, and South and by East, vntill they put themselues in the height of the lyne, and although that the cape of Buena Esperanca do fal Southeast of them, they cannot make their way good, by reason that in those Seas are many Ieuantes which are Eastsoutheast and Southeast windes, that doeth cause them to fal ouer, neere too the coast of Brasil, and therefore they go by the Boweling running towardes the South Southeast, South, and Southwest according as winde and weather do giue them leaue: vntill they put themselues intoo thirtie and six degrees, sometymes in sight of the Ilandes of Tristan de Acunna, which lye from the West parte of the cape Buena Esperanca, foure hundreth and fiftie leages, and at other tymes they runne into fourtie, & fourtie fiue degrees, vntil they finde Westerly windes, wherewith they returne

and runne towards the Eaſt, and Eaſtno; theaſt too ſeeke the cape. When Don Vaſco de Gama paſſed he ran towards the Northeaſt along the coaſt; and bicauſe he would put himſelfe into the Sea, when hee came to the cape of the currentes or tydes, for feare he ſhould put himſelfe intoo any baie, or ſhallow place, and bicauſe he woulde paſſe along the coaſte with al the vantage hee could, he paſt and had no ſight of the inhabitantes of Zofala, betweene the Iland of Saincte Lorence and the firme land, vntill hee came too Moſcanbique, which ſtandeth in fifteene degrees of height of the South ſide, ſixe hundreth leages beyonde the cape of Buena Eſperanca, which place is nowe themoſte principall porte that the Portugales haue in all thoſe Seas.

Don Vaſco taried a ſmal tyme in this place bicauſe it was then inhabited with Merchauntes of the ſecte of Mahoma, which were come thither in the trade of merchandize, and ſo hee ran along the coaſte and touched in Mõbaſa and in Melinde, where he was well receiued of the king, although hee were a Moore, with whome hee concluded a peace and amytie in the name of the king Don Emanuel his Lord and maiſter. And hauing well enformed and inſtructed himſelfe of the coaſt of the India, hee tooke experte Pilotes for the Nauigation, and went along vppon his voiage, paſſing ouer a gulfe of ſeuen hundreth leages in twenty and two dayes vntill hee came too the Citie of Calicut put in eleuen degrees and a quarter of the North ſide, with greate ioy and gladnes, too ſee himſelfe at the end of his iorney. And beeing at Anker without, hee ſent woorde too the king of his comming, where hee was in a place fiue leages from the Citie, who ſent him woorde that hee was very glad of his comming, and of his Embaſſadge; & tooke order that he ſhoulde paſſe his ſhippes too the Porte of Capocate, a place moſte ſure, where they might ryde at Anker by reaſon that it was in the Moneth of May, which is in that Coũtry the coldeſt and hardeſt tyme of Winter in the yeere, and when hee thought good he would aduiſe him to come to the Court.

This region that commonly is called India, is the Countrey with in which is conteined the two famous riuers, Indus and Ganges, which doo spring in the twoo mountaines Dalanguer and Nangracot, so being ioyned one to thother, that they are thought to be one and the people of that Countrey do thinke that they spring out of one common vaine, and so runne into the great Ocean Seas. The riuer Indus of whom al this Prouince tooke the name by the realme of Guacarate which commonly is called the west part of Cambaya, and the riuer Ganges by that of Beugala towards the eastparts lying East and West, vnder the tropike of Cancer 1 trauise of threehundreth leages from one mouth to thother, from the which commeth out a point of the lande, farre in to the Sea, and sheweth it self very sharpe, euen vntil it come to the cape Camori, which lieth North and South, from the fountaines of these riuers in distaunce of 400. leages of length in seuen degrees and two terces of heigth, of the North side. And although that amongst the Princes of these Countries are but twoo differences of lawes, Idolaters and Mahomets, al the Coūtry is deuided in to many realmes & states. For although they are very warlyke and of littel fayths: yet the height and sharpnes of the hilles and mountaines, and the greate nūber of fearce bests which are not to be made tame; & the riuers & the entering of the Seas do make it inuincible, & is the cause cause that al this region is not brought subiect to the Prince which is of most powre, and principally by reason of a long tract and rowe of mountaines, which the natural people of the Coūtry do cal Gates stretching from the North to the south, in the length of 200. leages, from one coast to thother, as doeth the high mountains Apenino in Italie beginning at the west part at the riuer Caruants, & passing vnto the mountain called Delij, very wel knowen of the sailers of that coast, which standeth in xii. degrees and a halfe in height of the North side; where is a plaine peece of ground ouerflowen with water of sixe or ten leages, as it seemeth by the bayes neere adioyning thervnto, which may bee eightie leages long, and

the natural people of the Countrey do cal it Malabar, where ſtandeth the realme and Citie of Calicut: this king beeing the greateſt of powre of thoſe of this prouince and therefore hee is intituled Camori which is asmuch too ſay as Emperour.

Two daies after that, Don Vaſco had placed his ſhips in the port of Capacote, there came for him a ſeruant of the king to bring him too his preſence whome they cal their Catual, accompanied with 200. men of his garde, who put himſelfe into his iorney, carying with him onely xii. Portugales and one Moore called Monzaide. This Monzaide was of the realme of Tunez, who did him greate pleaſure, by reaſon hee was a faythful interpreter: of whome he vnderſtood the ſecrets of the land, and the gouernement thereof: and in the way came to receiue him another Catual of higher degree, who did accompanie him vntil he came to the king, who when he ſhould receiue him, put himſelfe for Maieſtie at the ende of a great chamber in a bed which they cal Catel appareled with a certaine kind of fine cloth made of cotton wool burniſhed, & ſet with roſes of beaten gold, and on his head a long high cap of cloth of gold, of the faſhion of a cloſe mytre, ful of pearles; & on his legges and armes he had great ſtore of bracelets of golde and ſtone, hee had his head lying vppon a Pillowe of plaine ſilke wrought with golde firiſied: & there was leaning to the bed a Gentleman which helde a plater of golde in his handes with the leafe of Betely, with which kind of leafe they vſe to comfort the ſtomack. And Don Vaſco entring into the chamber there roſe very neere vnto the king, a man of great yeeres with whyte garments, repreſenting great honor, who was his heigh Prieſt, being the chiefe of the religious men of his gentilitie, and tooke him by the hande and caried him to the kings preſence, who receiued him with a mery countenaunce and with a ſhewe of greate and ſeuere Maieſtie without mouing himſelfe more then lifting vp his head a little frō the Pillowe, and when he layed down his head againe, hee made ſignes to the high Prieſt that he ſhould cauſe him to ſit

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downe by the bed side. And hauing spoken certaine generall woords with Don Vasco, and receiued the Letter of Don Emanuel, he saide that he woulde see it, and woulde heare him when he was at more leysure, and for that tyme he shoulde go to take his rest, commaunding a Gentleman to haue care too lodge him & see him wel vsed with good entertainemēt. The next day Don Vasco would returne to speake with him and declare his embassadge, but the Gentlemen which kept him company kept him backe, declaring to him that the Embassadors which came to that Country were accustomed not too go to speake with the king, but when it pleased his Maiestie to cal them: but the Moore Monzaide, as one which knewe wel the order that was vsed in these causes, said vnto him, that the most certaine order and custom of that Prince and of the other Princes of those Countries was, too heare no man if they did not first giue and present him with some present, and the more straunge the Embassador was, the longer tyme they caused him to tarry, and if hee wil be dispatched shortly that he should vse that way which hee had tolde him, giuing some gift to the Officers which had moste authoritie, and especially in businesse of the estate: the which he foorthwith put in practise excusing himselfe with the King and with the nobilitie, that by reason of the vncertainty of the voyage and long Nauigation the thing which he offered too them were not of estimation or valewe that he wished, but in the end, they were taken as sufficient, and were caried to the king and hee was receiued with more familiarity and gladnes then the first time, signifying too him that by the Letter of the king Don Emanuel he had vnderstoode the cause of his comming, and there vpon he should speake what he would. Then Don Vasco, begā with great discretion and wisedome as king the libertie, and trade of the spices and the entercourse of the trade of Merchādize from one realme to thother. The king answered with showes of gladnes, that he would dispatch him wel & in short tyme.

And although that this Prince were an Idolater, yet hee

did ſuffer in his Townes too dwell people of the ſect of Mahomet, and eſpecially in the portes of the Sea coaſte where came many for the trade of the ſpicery from Meca and other portes of Arabia fœlix as wel from the redd Sea, as frō the Sea called Sinus Perſicos, which people were much agreeued at the Embaſſadge and pretence of Don Vaſco, vnderſtanding the hurt and loſſes which woulde enſue vnto them in their trades; if that the trade of merchaundiſe ſhoulde reremayne eſtabliſhed as the king was purpoſed and reſolued to haue it.

Wherevppon they made many conſultations with order too kill the Portugales and too ſinke their ſhippes, but they durſt not, gyding it by the moſt ſure way, giuing bribes too the Catual, who was a Gentleman that had the charge of the Portugales, that with falſe reaſons and deceites the king might bee angrie and diſpleaſed with them. Yet this Gentlemā vſed the matter ſo diſcretely, that (although that the king was very wyſe, and vnderſtood wel the profit that might follow by this trade, for the diſpatch of the merchandiſe of his realme) hee was perſuaded too beleeue this Catual and too take the Portugales for ſpyes.

And hereuppon the King commaunded too cal Don Vaſco general of the Portugales too bee called before him, & ſo hee aſked him many queſtions; and although hee had ſatiſfied him, of all that was demaunded him; yet there was no remedie, but in fine hee counſeled him that hee ſhould foorthwith go aboord his ſhippes, leſte he ſhould receiue any hurte of the Moores pretending that they were ready too make an inſurrection againſt him, and promiſed that he woulde ſende him too his ſhips the anſwere of his Embaſſadge in a letter too the king Don Emanuel his lorde and maiſter. Wherein hee ſaide that the cauſe wherefore his Embaſſadour departed ſo diſcontent from his Countrie, was by reaſon of the olde controuerſies that were betweene the Moores and the Thriſtians, and that hee woulde receiue greate contentment with

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his friendship and with the trade of the merchaundyse of his realme so that it might not bee done with reproch, considering that he tooke the Moores for natural people of his Country, and that ordinarily they came too his portes in the trade of spicery; whereupon foorthwith Don Vasco made saple towardes Portugal by the same way that hee went, where he arryued at the end of twoo yeeres, and a fewe dayes after he departed from Lishebron, beeing receiued of the king Don Emanuel with great honor rewarding him, and his greate seruice.

The V. Chapter sheweth howe the king *Don Emanuel* did send a greate fleet of shippes to the *Indias* with a knight called *Pedraluarez Cabral*, and howe hee discouered in this voyage the coast of *Brasil*, and of other armies of ships, which are sent after vntil the tyme he gate *Malaca*, and had knowledge of the realme of *China*.

AND the king Don Emanuel being enformed by Don Vasco de Gama, of all thinges which happened to him in his voyage, he determined to send too the India thirteene saples of shippes so well furnished and prouided both of men and munition, that if it happened when they should come too the king of Calicut & to the rest of the Lords of those Coūtries, that they should be defended frō their portes, that thē his powre & force should be shewed, & that Pedral-

Pedraluarez Cabral, a knight of great wiſedom, and valiant ſhoulde go for general of the ſaide fleete of ſhippes, who departed from Liſhebron the nienth day of Marche the yeere 1500. Too whome there happened betweene the Ilandes of Cape verde ſuch a vehement ſtorme, that one of the ſhips departed from the reſte of her company, and returned backe againe, and with the reſt he toke his courſe and ſailed farre into the Sea, bicauſe hee woulde flye away from the calmes which are accuſtomed too bee vppon the coaſt of Ginea, and that he might with more aſſurance double the cape of Buena Eſperanca, running towards the Southſouthweaſt as neere as the Eaſtſoutheaſt and Southeaſt winds would giue them leaue.

And at the end of one Moneth rũning that courſe, they foũd themſelues ſo much to leewarde, by reaſon of the tydes which runne towardes the Northweſt, that they came to diſcouer an other coaſt of firme land towardes the Weſt: and according to the iudgement of the Pilots, it ſeemed to them that it might be diſtant from the coaſt of Ginea foure hundreth and fiftie leags, in ten degrees towards the Southſide, and to put them out of doubt, if it ſhould be any great Ilande they ranne along by the coaſt all one day, and finding a place for their purpoſe, where they might caſt ankor, they cauſed one boate to be hoyſed out for to diſcouer what lande it might bee: and immediatly did appeare vnto them by the Riuer where they were, many naked people, which did differ from thoſe of Ginea, in colour, haire, and faces, and they procured to ſpeake with thẽ, and to knowe what people they were, but they could not, for they retired all to the mountaynes, and ſo the Portingales returned to their ſhippes without any knowledge, and departed the ſame night, being forced with a ſtorme which cauſed them to departe without order: and ſayled along the coaſt towardes the South, vntill they came into a Bay, where they harbored them ſelues, which they named, Puerto Segnero, and is aſmuch to ſay, The ſure porte, or hauen, which ſtandeth in ſeuentie Degrees and halfe of height, and forthwith Pedraluarez

draluarez commaunded to hoyse out the Boates, and he went a lande in them, where he caused seruice too bee sayde at the foote of a Tree with great deuotion of them all, geuing thankes vnto GOD that they had departed from that vnknowen Countrey where they were before. And the Barbarous people of that Prouince did not maruayle too see the Portugales, as they of the other Coūtrey did: but rather, whē they sawe them kneele on their knees in the time of seruice, they kneled downe after the same maner, making the sayde shewe of prayers. At the which sight the sayde Pedraluarez, and all the rest of his people maruelled muche; and were very glad to see them offer themselues to receyue their doctrin of saluation, if they had had any to instruct them, & because he coulde not remaine there, nor let to follow his iourney, he dispatched foorth with the Captaine Gasper de Glemos, that with his small shyp hee might returne backe too Portugale, to geue newes to the king Don Emanuel, of the discouerie of that Countrey; which he had named Sancta Crus, whiche nowe is called the Brasill by the name of the Woode that is brought from thence. And when he had taken in fresh water, and sawe the weather fayre, hee determined to departe from thence towardes the Cape of Buena Esperanca, and there hapned to him in the Goulfe so great stormes of wether, that in his sight, the Sea did swallowe vp foure of his ships without the escaping of any of the people of the same: and with the rest hee ran many dayes without bearyng any sayle, vntil the sixtienth day of July he found him selfe onely with sixe of his shippes, a great way beyonde the Cape in the Coast of Zofala, so beaten with weather and spoyled of theyr Maſtes, yards Sayles, and Tackles, that they were more likely to returne then to passe foorth vppon their voyage. But the General beyng a man of so great courage, did set little by all these inconueniences, & so they came to Mosambike, where they did repayre them selues of the hurtes whiche they had receiued in the tormentes of wether, as also they were better receiued of the king then Don Vasco de Gama, was.

They continued frō thence their voiage, touching in Quiloa, where they fel out with the king, who was a Moore, and that greeued to ſee any Chriſtians in that coaſt. But the king of Melindes, who was their friend receiued them with great contentment, confirmyng anew the friendſhip and the trade that Don Vaſco had agreed vpon with him: and from thence they ran a twhart ouer the gulfe, vntill they came to Calicut. And although they were well receiued of the king, yet things did happe in ſuch ſort, that Pedraluarez fell out with him, and in the ende there were ſlaine certaine Portugales whiche were a land: and for to reuenge their deathes, he ſet fire on al the ſhippes that he found in the Port, ſhot at the Citie, and killed many of the people, threw down many houſes and buildinges, & ſo made ſayle towardes Cochin, which was xxx. leages diſtant from that place, lower in ẏ courſe towards the South: where he was well receiued of the king, who offered to him all the Spicerie which he had neede of for to lade his ſhippes. Alſo the king of Cananor ſent him the like worde, becauſe theſe Princes were enimies to the king of Calicut, who was a greater Lorde than they were, and they did acknowledge vnto hym ſuperioritie. And becauſe they thought that the trade with the Portugales woulde bee profitable for them, Pedraluarez did lade his ſhippes of as muche as they coulde carry, wherewith he returned into Portugale by the ſame way that hee came, which is different of that as is nowe vſed. For that they do returne among an infinite number of Ilands of Maldiuia, and thoſe of the ſeuen brethren running to the South ſouthweſt, Southweſt, and to the Weſt Southweſt, hauing ſight of many other Ilandes which are in thoſe Seas. And ſo they come along towardes the Cape of Buena Eſperanca, leauing the Ilande of Saint Laurence North, of the ſide of the land. And when Pedraluarez came to Portugale, the king had ſente the Captaine Iohn de Noua a Gallego borne with foure ſhippes vnto the ſame trade of the Spicerie. And from that time forwarde they continued more and more in the ſaide Nauigation, hauing alwayes

ſhippes

shippes of warre in those Indian Seas against the Moores of the streight of Mecha, and the rest of the Ports of Arabia, and against the king of Calicut, who came and made warre with him of Cochin, for the frendship and trade hee had with the Portugales, and the Captaine Edward Pacheco shewed himselfe very valiant in his defence, who was left therewith certaine souldiers for that purpose, & Alonso Alburquerque the most valiant knight, and of most wisedome, of as many of the gouernours as haue gone out of Portugale to that countrey. For he being captaine general of the shippes of warre of that Sea, did conquer the Citie of Ormos, and many other places as well of those which are in the Coaste of Arabia as of Persia: and made the king Zofadin too pay tribute who at that time was Lorde of that Realme: and he burned and destroyed Calicut, and gate of the Moores the Citie of Goa, which is now the most principal place that the kinges of Portugale haue in the India, whiche standeth more towarde the North then Calicut in the same Coast in fifteene degrees of height. and Malaca standeth in that famous point, in two degrees and a halfe of the Northside, the whiche Ptolome and the rest of the ancient Geographers did intitle Aurea Chersonesus, in respect of the Ilande Samatra which is neere too him, and one chanel doth deuide them, vnderstanding that they were ioyned in one, yeuen as the Morea is with the firm lande.

The longest part of this Ilande lyeth Northweast and Southeast, and the Equinoctiall Line standeth ouer the middest of it. And there remayneth behinde towardes the Weast neere to the Cape Camorie in the same Coaste the Ilande called Zeilan, and by Ptolome named Taprobana in distaunce of foure hundred leages from the one to the other according to the opinion of Portugale sailers, and not by situation Geographicall by reason that the course lyeth East and West. Betwene the which there is a great bay which is called the gulfe of Bengala, which is the realme that Ganges doth run through al alõg the coast, frõ the cape Canori foure

hundred & ten leages towards the Northeast vnto the mouth of him, and from them it returneth running towardes the South vnto the poynt of Malaca, where Alonso de Alburquerque had knowledge of the Malucas, and of the rest of the Ilandes and Realmes of that Sea, and particularly of the great Realme of China, which standeth in the same Coaste, beginning his limits fiue hundred leages more forwarde towardes the West, and there remaining in the middest of this precinct, the Realmes of Siam, Cambaia Champa and Guachinchina.

¶ The sixth Chapter sheweth of the discription of the lande of *China*, and the notable Prouinces and Realmes that are in it conteyned.

THis great kingdome whiche the natural people of the countrey doe call Tame; & they are called Tangis, is a Countrey which lyeth moste Easterly of all Asia, those of the India, Malaca Samatra, Sian and Pegu, and the rest of the Ilandes and Realmes of that Sea, are called China, it is sayde that in respect of that Realme of Guachinchina, which is neighbour to it on the West side, and payeth Tribute keeping in all thinges theyr lawes and customes, and the greatest part of it is washt ouer which the Easterly Ocean Seas; beginning from the Ilande Aynan adioyning to Guachinchina, which is in the nienteene degrees of the Northside, shewing it selfe by the South part in the course of the East Northeast gathering it selfe towardes the North, vnto a point which is most Easterly that it hath, where standeth the Citie of Nim-

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po which the Portugales doe call Liampo, and from thence it returneth towardes the Northwest, and to the North, making a great bay farre into the lande, and carrying on high vpon it selfe, and other Coaste set vpon that which standeth aboue; and the higher Countrey remaining vnder the colde clowdes of the North where the Tartars doe dwell, with whom they haue continuall warres.

By the West part it bordereth, as it hath beene delated, with the Realme of Guachinchina, and higher towardes the North, which the Laos Osioens Maos, and with the Bramenes which are a multitude of people and very rich of golde & stones, and especially of Rubies.

These are approued people, valiant, and tall of body, and sometime haue warre with the people of China, but it is not ordinarie by reason of the great hilles and sharp mountaines that is betweene them.

Then followeth foorthwith the Patanes and Mogores, whose Realme is very great, and innumerable of people, and of suche as be very warlike, they fight with Bowes and Arrowes on horsebacke, they weare Burrions and other things of defence.

The chiefe of that Realme is the great Samarcan, they be the true Massagetas, by whom it is affirmed that no other Nation haue had them in subiection. They are a tall people wel proportioned, and white for the most part, by reason they dwell in a colde Countrey. And from them forwardes you turne to meete with the Tartares, which people are tawnie and not white, from the waste vpward they goe naked, they eate rawe flesh, and they annoint them selues with the blood thereof, because they would make themselues, to be wondred at: And therefore commonly they haue such a filthie smel that when they warre against the people of China, yf the winde come of theyr side, they are discouered by the smell, they fight on horsbacke with Bowes, Arrowes, and Speares, as the Massagetas do. In all this description of the Countrey which hath beene spoken of, without doubt it is as great or greater

than Europe. Therein are conteyned xv. Prouinces, that euerie one of them is greater then the moſt kingdomes that wee know. They name ſome of thē vnder the name of Metropolitana, where theyr Gouernours and Preſidents are reſident: they are named, Cāton Foquien, Chequeam, Xanton, Nanquij, Quinquij: theſe are bordering vppon the Sea Coaſte, Quicheu, Iunna, Quancij, Sujuam, Fuquam, Canſlij Xianxij, Honan and Sancij, theſe are in the Countrey within, wel neere all theſe Prouinces and particularly thoſe of the Sea Coaſte are compaſſed about with Riuers verye deepe, large and Nauigable of the freſh water, and alſo repleniſhed with ſmall Riuers and Brookes whiche doeth maintayne the Sea, with the entraunce of them into it, and they runne farre within that Countrey, and becauſe the Countrey is plaine it ſemeeth as though it were ouerflowen, but it is not.

¶ The ſeuenth Chapter ſheweth of the temperature of the Countrey, and the notable thinges that it bringeth foorth.

The temperature of this Countrey is diuers: by reaſon that it doth ſtretch far frō the South to the North, ſo much that the Ilandes Ainan doe ſtand in nientene degrees of height. It is alſo knowen that ſome Prouinces doe ſtande in fifteene degrees, and others muche more aboue, in the borders of the Tartares: and this is well too be ſeene by the difference that is of the Inhabitauntes of Canton, and of the reſte of the places of that Coaſte, which are baſe people, as thoſe that are in Barbarie, and doo runne the race that they doe. And the reſt of the people of the Prouinces of the lande within are white and red, as in Almanie, although that generally there is not in all of it, extreme heate, nor cold, becauſe it is ſhut vp with-

within the region which the Geographers do cal temperate, and it standeth vnder the same Climate that Spayne, France, and Italie doe stand in: whereby the fruitfulnesse of it may be vnderstood, that without all doubt it is the greatest and most abundaunt that is knowen in the wide worlde, by reason that the naturall people of the countrey do procure to liue by their owne industrie, and continuall labour: not sparing Mountaines, Valleis, nor Riuers that is not all planted and set with sundrie sortes of Fruites, and with great sowing of Wheate, Barley, Rise and other thinges according too the commoditie and situation. And it is easie to them, by reason that they inioy freely of their owne substance, without any molestation of impositions and tributes. And also they doe not suffer nor permit in the Countrey any Vacaboundes, nor idle people, nor they suffer any of the naturall people of the Countrey to goe foorth of the Realme, there are an infinit number of people of all kinde of Artes, and offices. And because they are inclined to eate and drinke well, and too make muche of themselues, and to haue their houses very gorgeously dreste, and repaired, they geue them selues to labour, and to procure it, fleeing from infamie, and shunning little estimation, the thinges wherewith idle men are there reproched withall. This realme doth bring forth as great abundance of al kinds of fruites, and garden hearbes, as Europe, and as sweete and with as good tast as those of Spaine & better: for in the sweete Orenges, there is three differences of marueilous tast, and a kinde of plumbes that are wel neere round which are called Lechias, which are of an excellent taste, without geuing any lothsomnes, & without taking away the desire of the stomack, and without doing any hurt, although you eate many. Of the mellons, & of a certaine kind of apples, they report wonders, & their chestnuts they prefer without any cõparison to be made of ours with them. They haue great store of sugar, and great store of wormes wᵗ breede silke, which is one of the greatest trades ꝑ is in that realme, & great store of flax to make linnē cloth of diuers sorts for their wearing. In ꝑ dry cõtries they

Wheate and Barley, and in the moyſte and ouerflowen grounds they ſowe Ryſe, and they are accuſtomed to gather it three or foure times in the yeere, and ſo it is the moſte ordinarie and common meate they haue. The high Countries which are not good for Wheat, they ſet and plant with Pine apple trees, in ſuch ſorte ỳ no grounde remaineth vnlaboured that is able to geue fruite, the reſt of the fields, are moſt faire to the ſight, and ſweete by reaſon of the great ſtore of Roſes, and of other ſweete flowers which they bring foorth, and it maketh the Orchardes pleaſant whiche ſtandeth by ſmall brookes and riuers, and the gardens and houſes of pleaſure, which are ſpred abroade by the ſayde fieldes, whiche they vſe muche for theyr recreations. There are alſo certaine buſhie mountaines and woodes where doeth breede great ſtore of wilde Pigges, and alſo Deare, Hares and Conies, and other diuers kindes of Beaſtes, of whoſe ſkins they haue marueylous plentie of Furres, and eſpecially of the Martirnes which are many in number of a certaine kinde of beaſtes as great as Foxes, they make the muſke wherof they haue great abundance they beate them with ſtrokes vntil they kil them, and afterward they lay togeather the ſkin, the fleſhe, and the bones all to beaten, in little hillockes or Molehilles vntyll they bee all rotten, then they cut them, and in this ſort they ſel them to ſtraungers. The Portugales do cal them Papos, and they take it for better and more fine Muſke then that whiche they bryng from thoſe partes in powder. The moſte common and ordinarie cattell which they eate are Kine, Hogges Mutton, and Goates, of the which there are great abundance, in the Mountaynes and Meddowes. The foule is ſo muche and ſpecially that which was brought vp in great ſtanding waters and riuers, that they account it a ſmal matter to ſpend ordinarily euery day in onely one of the leaſt Cities of that Realme which is the Canton ten or twelue thouſand ducks not accoſting any other ſort of birdes.

The abundance of fiſhe, aſwell of ſhell fiſhe, as alſo of all other ſortes of fiſhe is moſt great, not onely in the Sea coaſts

but

but also in the Prouinces that are in the further most parte of inland, bicause the riuers are al great nauigable or portable by reason of the greatnes. Of all kinde of drugges there are great abundaunce and particularly of Rubarbe, and many mynes of siluer and golde, of the which is gathered greate quantitie in the riuers, and likewise of Copper, Iron & other metales, in such sort that they haue great plētie of al things, and lacke nothing that is necessarie for the common vse of the life of man.

The VIII. Chapter sheweth of the greatnes of the Cities, Temples and buildings that are in it, & that be in al the Countrie of *China*.

THere are in this realme many Cities & very populous, insomuch that in a Card Geographical made by the said people of China, which was brought into Portugal to the powre of Iohn de Barros a moste learned historian of that Nacion, there came marked two hundreth fourtie foure famous Cities, and they are numbered and noted out with this sillable fu, which is almuch to say, as a citie like to Canton fu: Panquim fu: and the Townes (which are very many in nūber) with this sillable cheu. The Villages are innumerable, & of great husbandrie, and some of them are of more thē three thousand inhabitauntes and the difference which they haue, is that they bee not compassed about with walles as the townes are. Al the Cities for the moste parte are set & planted by greate riuers which are nauigable and compassed about with deepe and broade marrishe groundes which doe

make them moſt ſtrõg. The walles are made of great ſtones the height of a man, & from thence vpwardes of brick made of the ſame clay that the earthen diſhes that they bring from thence is made of; which is ſo ſtronge, that with greate difficultie it can bee broken with Pikarkes. In ſome Cities they are very heigh and broade, in ſuche ſorte that there may matche foure or ſix men in a ranke or front vppon them. They are beawtified with many Bulwarkes and Towres from one ſide to thother, couered with moſt faire and beawtiful coueringes and compaſſed about with galleries, where their Gouerners and Miniſters are accuſtomed to go too recreat themſelues with the ſight of the fieldes and Riuers & of other great buildings which from thence are diſcouered. And there is a certaine ſpace of grounde betweene the walles and the marriſh ground, vpon which vi. men on horſebacke may march: and in the innermoſt part of the walles on thother ſide there is aſmuch more voyde grounde vntoo the houſes, that they may paſſe the watch without any impediment, the walles are ſo whole & without cliſte or rift or ſhew thereof, as if they were but then newe made: and yet hauing in many Cities memorie of twoo thouſande yeeres ſince that they were made: and the cauſe thereof is that in euerie Citie and towne the king hath an Officer with great wages whiche doeth not occupie himſelfe ſpecially in any thing, other than in continuall ſurueying of them, and to cauſe them too bee renewed. And therefore they haue order that hee which is Treſurer and receiuer of the Kings rents in ſuch Cities and in the lyke places, doeth giue too him all that is neceſſarie and needfull for the reparing of them. This is ſo preciſe a matter that the lyke officers are viſited and chaſtened if they haue not fulfilled all things which they are bound vnto in their office. The entraunce of theſe Cities are ſumptuous, and of greate ſhewe and Maieſtie, with three and foure gates moſt ſtronge, and all things too them apertayning, of Iron.

The

The streetes are wel paued with stone, and stande right without declyning too one side more then too the other: where you may see from one gate too thother, and in the moste of them may passe in a frunt ten and fifteene men on horsebacke one by the other, and yet there remayneth in one side and thother greate windowes, and stawles for the seruice of them that keepe shoppes of merchaundyse: they bee so broade that there is built in them triumphant Arches of greate beawtie and shewe, whereby the Cities bee much decked and adorned: and the sayde Arches are set some vppon timber and other vppon free stone, which are much painted with gallant shewes roucred with Tiles, made of the earth, which the fine whyte dishes are made of. And by reason the streets are so broad they make them with three gates and those which are in the middest are greater thē those which are at the ends. The Arches are so broade & so farre out into the streets and so made that the people are defended from the rayne & the Sun: and vnder them is sold much fruite and other fine trinckes, and Jewelles of all sortes.

The houses where the kings Officers are resident in, are sumptuous and of a straunge buildinge, and so broade that some of them haue more roome thē is in a good Town. And the cause therof is the great gardens and parkes which are compassed about that is within them, wherin is greate store of deare and of other game of diuers sortes, and all kinde of wilde fowle.

In Townes that are neere the Sea coast, all the houses for the moste parte bee lowe, and within the lande they reise their Chambers aloste, & of faire buildings. They haue generally at their doores trees of beawtie set in a rowe, one by an other in order, which are set with equall distance, and by line, which are greene al the yeere, bicause they should yeld them shadowe and also beawtifie the streetes.

There are in that Countrie some Cities in which

the Barkes may ſayle with in them lyke as in the towne of Bruges in Flanders: in the which riuer do Barks paſſe laden with al kind of vitailes and merchaundiſe, and the ſtreets ſtand on both ſides of the Chanelles where they ſayle and come to the Wharfes and Bridges of goodly building & ſpecially at the going out of the Cities, for to paſſe the fennes and the riuers. Whē they be ſo great and deepe that none cā go ouer them, they make bridges vpon many boats or barks after the faſhion of the bridge of Seuil tied with ſtrong chaynes, and when the freſhe waters are very great, they vndo thē, & then they take barkes which they rowe with oares, and doo vſe them to paſſe the people and al other things they haue to paſſe at the kings coſt, this order is in all the Country, although it be in places not inhabited.

In the hilles & mountaines where people cōmonly doo iorney, there are made Cauſeis that are heigheſt in the middeſt and wel repayred, which is one of the moſt notable buildings for common vſe that is in al China. The villages are for the moſt part al compaſſed about with trees, which doo hyde them bicauſe the houſes be lowe, vnleſſe it bee the houſes of ſome rich farmers, whoſe houſen are very high & decked with towres, & which are to be diſcouered far of, by many partes, bycauſe the Country is much repleniſhed with villages and houſes of pleaſure, of great recreation, where they haue gardens & parkes of deare and wildfowle, and ponds of fiſhe of al ſorts. And by reaſon they are blind in Religion and without light of the knowledge of the true God, and of feeling of euerlaſting life, they indeuour the rather to paſſe the temporal life with great eaſe and contentment, repoſing their chiefe felicitie in things temporal and in things of moſt pleaſure in this life.

auſies very otable.

There are many other buildings of great admiration in thoſe cities, & ſpecially in the prouince of Fucheo; & certain Portugals wᵗ were caried priſoners thither, do affirme that they ſawe a tower before the houſe of the kings Treſurer in that Prouince, built vpon 40. whole Arches, and euery piller

of the

of the Arches had in length fourtie pawmes, & in cõpasse xii. and the rest of the building was so sumptuous and faire that therewith they were amazed, and it seemed too them that in respect of that, al was little which they could see in all Europe.

And bycause you may better vnderstande the maiestie of this Empire and the riches and greatnes of it, the Portugales doo make particular relation of the Citie of Canton, which is one of the least of that realme: of the which Cytie they haue moste knowledge, by reason of the ordinarie trade of shipping that they haue too that place and porte with their merchaundise, which in respect of the rest is as the Cytie of Cadiz in respect of the rest of the great Cities of Spaine: and they say that this Citie of Canton standeth before the Iland called Ainan in the same coast in twenty seuẽ degrees skarce of heigth of the North side in a playne fayre fielde, and delectable to the sight; for the trees and fruites that it hath, and all kinde of husbandry being placed among the smal riuers, being brãches of a great riuer which goeth spreading in breath twoo hundreth paces, and in deepth from three to seuen fadõ, and by the sides of these riuers are planted many small villages & faire houses of great pleasure, vntil you come to the sea which is neere vnto it. At the entrie in towards the Citie, are certain Ilands inhabited with hus bandmẽ, wh only do liue by husbandry. It is compassed about on the parte & side where the riuer is not with a brode deepe diche or trench, wherevnto commeth great store of water which maketh it strong, & it is nauigable, the walles are built with stone, lyme, and bricke, vppon the face of the earth without any foundation, but filled vp ful of earth and broade. There are in the walles eighty three bulwarks. Iohn de Barros doth say that they are nientie of a greate shewe, and compassed about with galleries, which doo beawtifie the Citie very much, it hath in circute twelue thousand three hundreth and fiftie paces, besides the suburbes which are great and much inhabited, the walles are hole and sounde, although that they do affirme that it is one

thouſand eight hundreth yeeres they were built by reaſon of the great care they haue too repayre them. The good faſhion that the ſtreets haue, doo cauſe the Citie to ſhew very faire, by reaſon they are long and ſtraight. And the ſaid Citie hath ſeuen gates, and they are ſeene from the one to thother, by reaſon the ſtreets are ſo broade, that ten men on horſeback may paſſe in front one by an other, and there remayneth at the one ſide and thother, ſhops where they ſel merchanndyſe and all kinde of victailes. The ſaid ſtreetes are very wel paued, high by the ſides, and lowe by the middeſt, that the water may auoide away and beeing ſo long they haue throughout great number of triumphant Arches made very ſumptuous as before is declared. At the going fooryth of the gates to go ouer the marriſh ground, there are Bridges of free ſtone, very broade where is ſolde many thinges too bee eaten, and others.

The houſes where the Preſidents are lodged, that doo gouerne this Prouince, are the kings houſes, and are of great Maieſtie, and doo occupy much roome with the courtes, and gardens and great houſes where the Counſelles doo ſit, and determine cauſes, and doo prouide thinges for the Gouernement of the reſt of the Cities, and thoſe for the eſtate of the warres and for the kings rents.

This Prouince and that of Canſie by reaſon they be leaſt, & the reſt are prouided with one onely Gouerner which they cal Turam, & is aſmuch to ſay among vs as Viceroy: & for this cauſe he is Reſident in a Citie called Doucheo, which is in the borders and precinct of them both. The ordinary & common houſes of this Citie are in outwarde ſhewe of ſmall beawtie becauſe they are lowe, by reaſon of the beate which is great in that place, but within they are very beawtiful & goodly to be ſeene, becauſe they are made as whyte as milke in ſuch ſorte that it ſeemeth as if they were ſet fooryth with ſhyning paper burniſhed: and the floores of the ground are made of ſtones foure ſquare.

The

The timber that these houses are made of is smoothe very equall and well wrought, died with certaine waters which sheweth as if it were the collour of Damaske well neere of the collour of golde, and it hath a beawtifull shewe, and in all houses at the entrie in at the dooze, and in the paue-ment or court are flowres set, and greene things for their re-creation, and a small pond with fishe, and a lynen cloth foure square according too the measure of the court or Pauement that is within the doze wrought al vpon as though they were counting houses, & vppon them are set many Idoles of their gentilitie made of clay or of wood moze or lesse very curi-ous, according too the abilitie of euery one. In all the other square places, or lodgings they haue things painted and di-uers other curiosities. The rooffes of the house are very wel built and couered with tyles, made of the same clay that the Porcelanas are made of, those which receiue the water are broade and shorte, and those which lye vppon and do shut the Canelles are narrow and long. In the endes towardes the streetes the tyles are garnished with very fine thinges and gallant made of lyme, and they haue no neede too tyle them anewe in many yeeres: For the tyles bee not brittle as oures are, nor sharpe but smoth that they doo not breede any filthie thing. *Timber died*

Tyle not gathering filth.

At the gates they haue trees set, which serueth them for shadowe, and it beawtifieth the streetes. There are in the Citie many Temples of their Idolatrie, very great and sumptuous; and chiefely one that is in the middest of the Ci-tie with many Towers and Pinacles, which doo shewe ouer all the Citie. At one side of the part of the Riuer there is a greate Towze harde by the wall, and thither goeth the Presidentes and other Officers too make merry, and to see the Cytie, the fieldes and the Riuers. The suburbes that it hath are very greate by meane of the trade of the Sea, and by reason that the moste parte all the straungers and men of trade and of businesse doo lodge in them. *A Tower.*

They

They haue alſo the ſtreets very broade with ſome triumphant Arches, as well in them, as within the Cytie, there bee a great number of places for men too lodge in, and victailing houſes, where they haue meate drest, wheras is great plentie of flesshe and fishe, aſwel shellfish as other fish, and fruites and Wynes made with confections of greate delicatenes, that it bringeth greate admiration to note it, and it is all needeful, according too the greate trade of bying and selling that is there. They do affirme that making enquirie of the things which ordinarily is eaten, euery day it was founde that there was from fyue too sixthousand hogges, and from ten to eleuen thousand ducks, beſides a greate number of Kyne, and an infinit number of other Byrds and hennes and alſo Conies and fishe, aſwel shelfishe as other fishe, and fruites and frogges, and alſo dogges, which they flay and skin or scalde lyke Pigges, and the baſe and poore people do eate them, ſo as eaſilie they do confeſſe that this Cytie of Canton is much greater then their Lisbron the chiefe Cytie of Portugal, which is eſteemed and taken for one of the greateſt Cities of Europe.

The IX. Chapter ſheweth of the countenaunce and apparel of the People, and their conditions and manners.

ALl the people of the China generally haue broade faces, ſmal eyes, playne noſes with very little hayre in their beards, and ſome there are that haue their faces well made and proportioned, with great eyes, & with their beards wel ſet: but there are fewe of theſe. It is thought that thoſe comlier ſort did deſcend

cend of strange people that in old tyme matched themselues with them, when they went foorth of the realme and were conuersant with other people. In Canton and al other places of that coast, they are tawnie like vnto those of Fetz, and Marruecos, but al within the lande are of the collour lyke to the people of Spaine, Italy, and Flanders, whyte and red & of good growth. The noble people of the lande, and those that serue in the warres, doo apparel themselues with silkes of diuers colours, and the poorer sort of people with blacke, and with serge, lynen cloth, and cotton wool, died, because they make no woollen clothes, although they haue greate store of woolles. They haue their coates made of such fashiõ as other were in olde tyme, with many pleits, long fawles, & broade sleeues, and they make them fast vppon the left side, and doo garde their saide apparell with that that their garments are made of, accordiug to the degree and abilitie of euery one of them. They that bee of the blood Royal, and also such as be placed in the chiefe offices of honor and auctoritie, differ from al other in apparel: for they go al beeset with golde and siluer round about theyr wastes, and al other Gentlemen doo cary their eares garnished therewith. Their hoses are very wel made and stitched, and their Bootes and shooes are made of silke very curious and fine. In the winter season they furre their apparel with furres of beastes, as of Marterns and Sables, and do bring them ordinarily about their neckes. They suffer theyr heare to growe long, wherein they haue great superstition, saying that they shalbee caried thereby to heauen: and they collour it lyke as women doo, and do gather it together in the highest part of the head with a string, wherin they put through a natte of siluer. Those that are not maried are different from them that are: wherefore they weare theyr heare curled vppon their forehead, & weare on theyr head certain high coyues, & rounde, made of small stickes very fine, and wrought vppon with blacke silke. The women are commonly very fayre, except those that are dwelling at the Sea coast, of the parte that is towards the south,

and thoſe that dwel in the hilles and mountaines: the reſte are very whyte and fayre in their faſhion, & ſome with goodly eyes, and their noſes very ſlender and comely. All are appareled with ſilke, & the pooreſt ſort with ſerge and lynen cloth. The coates wᵗ they vſe, bee of the faſhion of them that are heere, and the Pettycoates with broade ſleeues. They dreſſe their heare with moſt great care, they cary it gathered togither on the higher part of the head, faſt bounde with a broade lace of ſilk garniſhed with ſtones & peeces of gold. They paint themſelues with the lyke curioſitie as they do in Spayne: & they hold it for a gallant thing, to haue their feete very little, & therfore frō the tyme that they be little childrē, they bind their feete very much with clothes, for bicauſe that ſuch as haue little feete are much eſteemed. They liue very cloſly in there houſes, for they are littel ſeene, their huſbands willes is that they ſhould ſo doo, for they are very iealowſe. Whē they go forth of their houſes, they are caried in chayres with courtines compaſſed about, with ſeruants and familier friends that do carie them, and that do accompanie them, in ſuche ſorte that none are ſeene by the ſtreetes, but people of low and baſe degree. The men doo buy the women whē they marry them, and pay for them to their fathers, much or littel money, according to theyr degrees. And although that it be lawful for thē to haue as many as they can maintain, yet they dwel with one alone which is the chiefeſt in reputatiō, and the reſt they lodge in diuers houſes. And if they be men of trade and merchaunts that are traders, they do place them in ſuch Townes where their buſines & trade lieth. They doo not ſuffer within the Cities, that any common women ſhould inhabite, but in the ſuburbes where is appointed vnto them publike ſtreetes for their habitation. All theſe for the moſte parte are ſlaues bought from the powre of their moothers when they were childrē, for bycauſe it is permitted by law vnto widowes that doe remayne poore, when they haue not wherewithal to ſuſtein them to ſel their childrē for their relefe: being oppreſſed with neceſſities, they go to riche merchaunts

chaunts and offer their daughters that they may buy them. The which merchauntes moued with couetoulnes do teache these yong maides too play of the Virginalles and Gittorns and other such instrumentes: and after growing to ripe yeeres, they put them intoo the streetes too reise a gaine of their whoredomes. There is an accompt taken by an Officer of the Kinges, which is appointed for this cause; vntoo whome the maister of these maides doth pay so much by the yeere, after the manner of tribute, and they to their masters euery Moneth asmuch as they doo agree vppon: and these which doo play of the Instrumentes and sing well, bee more esteemed & of greater price. When they are olde they make them looke young again, with ointments oyles, waters, and with collours, and when they are olde and of no more profit, they remaine free without any longer bondage vnto their maisters, or any else, mainteyning themselues of that which they haue gotten in their youth, with their naughty trade.

And the boyes do serue al kind of seruice in theyr houses, vntil they be of yeeres to marry, & thē their maisters are bound to seeke then wiues, and to prouide them houses, and to giue them trade or order how they may get their liuing, and these seruauntes must geue their maisters euery yeere so much in knowledge of their bondage, but the children of these slaues remaine free. They doo celebrate all their holy dayes in the night, and principally at the tyme of the newe Mones, as people that walke in darkenes, with great shewes and many inuentions, and with much Musike. And specially they doo solemnise the first day of the yeere, which is amongst them at the tyme of the newe Moone of March: and therfore they trim and decke vp their houses and doores with many carpets and clothes of silke, and of diuers kinds of roses and flowres planting in all the streets trees most high with their bowes cut off, wherevppon they hang many lights, and also of the triumphant Arches which in these dayes they decke with bowes, paint them, and hang them with clothes of Damaske, & other diuers silkes. The Priests do assist in these holy daies

ly daies being richely appareled, and doo offer ſacrifiſes too theyr Idolles, ſinging accoꝛding too theyr faſhion, and they are al ioyful with the muſike, they ſing very vnlyke one another in theyr voices, and diuers kind of inſtruments lyke too Gittoꝛns, Violls, and Violes of the bowe, Claricoꝛdes & Flutes. And although they be not of the ſelfſame making as oures are here, yet they are much like to thē, and are very curious, & their voices do agree with the Inſtrumentes maruellouſly, & they make a maruellous accoꝛde in the ſounde. They haue many ſhewes oꝛ playes very pleaſant of great entertainement foꝛ ſuch as do vnderſtande them, they do them very naturally with great pꝛeparation, and very lyke to the matter, which they do pꝛeſent them foꝛ. And al the tyme that theſe feſtiual dayes doo continewe, they haue their tables ſet ful of meate of diuers ſoꝛtes, as well of fleſhe, as of fiſhe, and of al kinde of fruites, and of moſt riche wynes of maruellous taſte, and they and their Pꝛieſts doo nothing elſe but eate & dꝛinke at diſcretion vntill they can not ſtande: and in that point neither the Fleminges noꝛ Almans do paſſe them.

In the pꝛincipal dayes oꝛ feaſts that euery one doth keepe as in the day of his byꝛth, they doo conuite their kinsfolkes and friendes, and bidde one another, and they ſend delicates and thinges too helpe them make their feaſtes. There are greate expences in theſe bankets, and thoſe which make thē foꝛ their paſtymes, they ſpende frankely theyr goodes in them, they are ſerued with maruellous policie, and with ſtraunge oꝛder, and if there be one bīdꝛeth gueſtes, euery one eateth alone, oꝛ by twoo and twoo, vppon littel tables moſte gallant, ſo gilded, and painted with wildefowle, deare, and al other ſoꝛtes of byꝛdes that they couer no table with clothes, but onely compaſſeth the table with a boꝛder oꝛ a frontall of Damaſke in euery one that reacheth to the grounde, in the endes & ſides. Rounde about the tables they put many little baſkets very curious decked with flowꝛes with diuers different fruites, and in the middeſt the meate very oꝛderly, and pꝛepared as wel of fleſhs as fiſhe, bꝛothes of diuers ſoꝛts ſer-

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ued in rich dishes made of fine whyte clay called Porcelanas, or of siluer. They eate very cleanely, for they touche not their meate with their handes, but with smal stickes gilded that they holde betweene theyr fingers, and with forkes of siluer: they drinke many tymes, but little in quantitie, & they drinke it out of little cuppes made of the whyte fine earth that the Porcelanas are made of, too the end that they wold drinke very littel at a tyme. Women do helpe to serue in the meate and drinke, and too wayte at theyr tables: and when the tabels are serued the saide women do the office of iesters too make them merry and ioyful. They haue musitions in all these bankets and players vpon diuers Instrumentes, dauncers and representers of comedies, wherewith they bee recreated as people without care, and without light of the glorie of heauen, not directing too any other ende but too the contentment and felicitie of this world, whereof they enioy the ful. The Lordes and the people of estimation are serued with much more Maiestie and curiositie, for they giue to thē at euery tyme they chaunge their meate, cleane napkins, knyues, forkes, and spoones. They vse great courtesies, and good behauiour one with thother in their quaffing and drinking making much one of an other. And they are so ielowse, that they suffer not their wyues to eate with them in these feastes and assemblies: but they agree and eate togither in some other place apart from them: and there goeth no man into the place where they are but certaine blind men that are musicions to make them merry. They vse a certain courtesie at their meeting very strange, they shut theyr lefte hand and couer it with the right, and hold them vp many tymes vpon theyr brest, in token that they haue them fast shut vp in their harties, and to this mouinge of handes they adde vnto words of courtesie. And amongst the commō people that which they commonly speake when they meete any strange friends, that haue not seene one the other many daies before is, that they doo aske them, if they haue eaten: and if they doo answere, they haue not, they carie them to the vittailling houses, and

make them great cheare, and doo banquet them at their diſcretion: For as I haue ſaide, in all places and ſtreetes, as well within the citie as without, there are a great number of victailing houſes, where they ſell meate and drinke aboundauntly of many ſortes of meates: and if they ſaye that they haue eaten, they carry them to other houſes, where only they are ſerued with Conſerua and fruites and ſhellfiſh, and ſundry ſortes of wynes, wherewithal they banquet and recreate themſelues. And if there come any gueſts, newly forth of any other place to theyr houſes, if they finde them not with theyr beſt apparel that they vſe to weare at a feſtiual tyme, they ſpeake not vntoo them, nor make any reckening of them, vntil they come in the moſt rich apparell they haue, and in appareling themſelues ſo, they receiue thē with great myrth & gladnes, & great courteſie. For they haue an opinion that it is not lawful, nor that they are not bonnde tooreceiue any gueſtes, which weare their common apparel, but ſuch as doe come with their feſtiual apparel, and the beſt they haue, too ſhewe them that they haue cauſed with theyr coming, great feaſts and gladnes in theyr houſes. They vſe too make very much of them at theyr comming, and theyr kinſefolk, neighbours and friends come too ſee them, and carrie them a water made of certaine hearbes ſodden that is ſomewhat bitter and of a redd collour which is very healthful, and ſuche as they vſe, ordinarily for too preſerue them in health. All people in generall giue themſelues too labour, aſwell in tilling the fieldes as in other ſciences and artes, and in the trade of merchandiſe, not permitting any vile men. Neither is there any poore people that doo begge among them, nor they giue them any almes, for they will that all get theyr liuinge with theyr labour. And therefore they haue this order if there bee any that are lame, & cripple, or of greeuous diſeaſes, and haue of theyr kinred that are able to ſuſteine them, and doo it not, the chiefe Treſurer of the king and other Officers in that place doo force them too doo it, and ſo they giue them what they haue neede of, accoording too the abilitie that euery one

o Beggers.

hath,

hath: and if they haue no kinsefolkes that are of wealth, then they commaund to proue the same before their Officers or Ministers of Iustices, that they may commaund them to bee receiued into Hospitalles that the king hath to this ende in euery place, with ordinary Officers that doo minister and giue to euery one what they haue need of aboundantly, which coste proceedeth of his rents, and for the most parte al these are incurable vntil they die, they haue their names set down in their rowles and they themselues & the chiefe Treasurer, & keeper of the accomptes of the kings rentes doo visit the officers and doo take accompt of the charges and prouision of the sick people. And if they find that they haue not done their dueties as they are bounde too doo in seruing and cherishing them, they are chastened without any forgiuenes. And for the blinde men beeing poore, they ordeine that they labour and work, and get their meate in grinding of wheat and Rise in milles, in place of moyles. And the blind women which are strompets they appoint other women too gouerne, trim, and decke them, which haue their sight, and haue left this kinde of naughty liuing. They are al very ingenious & fine of witte too doo any thing with their handes and chiefely they which vse too paint pictures, for they are maruellous painters of al kinde of byrds, as it is wel seene by the beddes, tables, windowes targets and other lyke which they bring from thence to Portingal, and very quicke of natural vnderstanding, & to finde out all kinde of artes. They haue many Couches, and Waggons, carried with hoyses. They vse abroade in Townes and villages Waggons that are caried vnder saile with the winde, and they gouerne them as easily as barkes in the water. I sawe many Portingales that did affirme this which had beene in that Countrie, and it proueth to be so, for in some linen clothes are painted, which they bring from thence that I sawe in Lisbebron there commeth painted the fashion that they are of. They haue such discretion and cunning in the trade of merchaundyse, that such as doo vse it, are commonly false lyers, and full of mischiefe, for they

doo not

doo not indeuour any thing, ſo much as too deceiue thē with whome they trade, as people without conſcience, & clothed in deceipt. There are many that go rāging frō Prouince to Prouince with their merchaundyſe carrying frō one to another, the things which they want, and goe down to the portes of the Sea to ſel to ſtraungers of the Ilandes and Realmes neere adioyning too thē. Others there are which lyue continually in the Cities and Townes, where they haue greate lodges in the publike ſtreetes vnder thoſe Arches, and at the gate a table ſet, wherein they haue written all the merchaundiſe they haue. That which cōmonly they ſel, is cloth of gold & peeces of ſilke of diuers ſortes, and very curious, whereof are many crimſons, Damaſkes and Taffetas, of ſo high a price, that the Portingals dare not giue for them that which they are worth, although it be a merchandeſe that moſt of all others they buy to carry to Malaca, and to other partes and realmes of that Sea coaſt, and to the India, and too Portingal. Their merchauntes of lower degree, do ſel fine & courſe ſerge, of all collours and peeces of lynen cloth, and cotton wool, wherof the poore people doo apparell thēſelues. They which haue ſimple medycines haue their ſigne ſet at their doores. Within the land is great ſtore of Rubarbe, but it is brought to Canton ſodden, & not rawe. They ſel the Porcelanas which is the fine diſhes made of whyte clay at the gates of the Citie, there are of diuers ſortes: thoſe which are moſt fine, are not commonly ſold, nor they are not brought in to theſe partes: for the gouernors, and preſidents, and Lordes are ſerued with them, they are redd, green, gilded, ſome yealowe, they are made of a white ſofte ſtone, and ſome are red, but the red is not ſo good, becauſe it is of a more ſtrong and baſe clay the which being ground is layed in certaine ponds of water which they haue made of free ſtone, and ſome lined vppon but very cleane: and after they haue it well wet and turned two and fro in the water, of the creme or ſkimme that remaines vpon the water they make thoſe which are moſte fine, and the lower they go, ſo much the more courſe, and of

that

that which remaineth lowest, they make the grossest or coursest, whereof the common people are serued, and they are fashioned euen in the sorte and maner as our earthen dishes are made heere, and they dry them in the sonne, and after they paint them, as they liste, with the inke of Anil which is fyne, as by them you may perceiue, and when they are drye they glase them, and they bake them. In the Prouince called Saxij are made the beste: and the greatest fayre and sale of them, where they are moste sold, is in Liampo, which is a Citie of the same Prouince. The artificers and craftesmen are dwelling in the open places and streetes as they are here. There are goldesmithes that worke vppon golde and siluer curiously, and maruellous gilders and grauers of gold which haue great shoppes full of counting houses and painted & garnished Chestes, and many Chayres gilded with gold, & some with siluer of such as they cary theyr gouerners and other chiefe Officers of theyr common wealthes on theyr shoulders, which are very rich, and of great price, and specially one sorte of them which are made very high, and couered with windowes made with a latteise of Iuory, that they which are within may see those that are without, & they not seene. These do serue to carry women when they passe in the Citie. They haue many rich beddes, tables, stooles, smal chestes so gilded and curiously wrought and painted wt gold, and other materialls, that it is wonderful to our great artificers that we haue here. I had in my custodie a small counting chestе, and I shewed it in Lisbebron where I bought it, and in Seuil vnto the most curious men, and of most knowledge in al artes that were in those Cities at that present, & with great admiration they saide to mee, that in all Europe was none that would take vppon them to make the lyke nor vnderstande the worke that was in it. There are many workemen of laten which doo worke an infinite number of al sortes of vesselles, of the which they serue and prouide al the Ilandes of those Seas and of other vesselles of Iron whereof they are great and cunning artificers; and they melt

them according as they melt the latten in Norwey, but it is more lyke too glaſſe, for it breaketh eaſilie. There are more ſhoemakers then of any other ſcience, becauſe it is a thing that is much vſed and ſpent. In the Cytie of Canton there are twoo greate ſtreetes of them without any other perſon of any other occupation that dwel amongſt them, but there are many ſcatered abroade in other places of the Citie. In one of theſe ſtreetes are ſolde riche ſtuffe, wherewith they make bootes and ſhoes that are couered without with ſilke of coullours with riche ſtringes, which is made very gallantly. There are Bootes of ten Ducats price; and of a Ducat according to their goodneſſe, and ſhoes of two Ducats and ſo downewarde, vntoo a maruedie which is the vi. parte of a pennie, and are of ſtrawe, that the riche and poore may weare euery one as he liſteth and as their abilitie ſerueth.
In al other artes, there are a greate number of craftesmen very curious and of all thinges greate abundance. And they are ſo giuen too their owne profit, that of dogges bones and of other beaſtes, they ſerue themſelues therewith in ſteede of Iuory, and of olde ragges and rindes of trees, and of canes they make paper and of ſmall peeces of ſilke: of this they ſerue themſelues too wryte vppon, and the reſt for too rolle peeces of Damaſke and Taffetas and other ſilkes in. They buy the dung of the houſes for their grownd in the fieldes and eſpecially for their garden herbes. They bring vpp byrdes too ſinge, and they teache them too make viſages; they apparel themſelues of diuers faſhions. They make all theſe inuentions and many other too get mony, wherewithall too paſſe their life. The mony that is among them is of copper, but that which moſt runneth amongeſt them is golde and ſiluer, which is chaunged for the valewe in waight, as it is in the Peru. All of them bring their Ballaunce and broken ſiluer too buy meate, and the reſte of the thinges which they haue neede of. And when they buy any thing of greate quantitie, they haue Ballances in their houſes, and greate waightes made iuſt and marked. They

bring

bring their siluer commonly full of drosse, too make it increase, whiche is the cause that although they haue many mynes, they carrie it as merchaundise from Iapaon, and much golde out of the Ilandes called Lechios. These Ilandes are one hundreth leages more towardes the East from the Citie of Chincheo which is in the Prouince of Foquiem. The first Ilād standeth in xxv. degrees of heigth, and there are many other folowing in the course of the East Northeast, towardes the North; they are all fruiteful, and temperate and of meruellous good waters: the people that dwell on them are more whyte then tawnie, and well apparelled and vse armor. They were subiect in the olde tyme too the people of China, and therefore they are much of theyr manners: but nowe they are of themselues; and beeing in the middest of the Sea, yet they giue themselues little too nauigatiō. Of the fruites that the people of the China do gather and the merchandise which they trade, in they paie too the King a tribute very easie. The greatest burden they haue, is that they which keepe houses by themselues doo pay for euery person of theyr housholde the valewe of three score maruedies which is here xi. pence. And with this all theyr goods and landes are free too do with them what they list, and too leaue them to theyr children, and childrens children after their deaths, which is the cause that they labour so much as they doo too encrease them.

The tenth Chapter sheweth of the nauigation that the people of *China* haue in the Seas, and also in the fresh Riuers.

There are in this Realme an infinite number of Shippes and Barkes, wherein they saple by the Ilandes and coastes of the same, which are large, and by those great riuers, which do run through many partes of the same, in such sort as it is thought there doe dwell fewe lesse people on the water than on the lande, the great store of timber that they haue doe helpe them much therevnto, and the mineralles of yron, and other necessarie things for the arte of nauigation, by the abundance whereof it is easie to make their Shippes and Barkes with verie little cost. The greatest shippes they haue, are called Iuncos, which are verie great, and are made for the warres, with Castels very high in the poope & proze like to the Shippes of Leuant. There are so manie of these, that it is easie for any generall of the Sea to ioyne together in little time a naute from fiue hundreth to a thousande of them, of the same making and greatnesse. They haue others for loading, but they are lower of poope and proze. Other smaller Shippes they haue, which they call Bancoens, which doe carie three great Dares in euerie side, with foure or fiue men to euerie Dare, and such serueth them much, for to go in, and come forth of the barde, hauens. And others there are called Lanteas, that row with seuen or eight Dares. These two sorts of small Shippes (although they bee for lading) yet the Pirates and theeues vse them, for there are manie in all these coasts, and Ilands, by reason they saile well. Also they vse other small shippes, that

e descrip-
s of the se-
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s, barkes,
l gallies.

that are long like to Gallies, wherein they lade great store of marchandize, to carie vp and downe by the riuers within the lande: these drawe little water after the fashion of Flanders Hoyes. There are an other sort of small Shippes and Barkes, different to these, and such great numbers bee of them that is wonderfull, but the relation thereof is knowne notoriously, and all serueth to carie marchandize from one place to another within the saide realme, bicause it is forbidden that any man shall go foorth of it for any forraine place, although that in olde time they sayled much abroade, and conquering the Ilandes and Realmes of that Sea, vntill they came to the India, and at this day there is memorie of them in the coast of Coromandell, which is ouer against the Realme of Narsinga, on the side of the Sea of Bengala, where Saint Thomas built his house, where by report remaynes to this day the reliques of his bodie.

There is a great Temple of Idolles, which serueth for a marke to such as do saile in that Sea coast, which is lowe as Holland is, and is called the coast of the Chinas, bycause the people of Chinas built it in times past. And in the realm of Calicut be trees of fruite, which haue bene there of long time, and the naturall borne people of the Countrey do say, that their Nation planted them. And in the Shoulues of Chiloa, which doth extende vnto the Iland of Ceilam towards the west part of Coromãdel, it is affirmed by those of the land, that there was lost a great fleete of their Shippes which came vpon the India, by meane they were not perfect in the nauigation of those Seas. And it is also sayd that they were Lordes of Laoa, and of the Realmes of Malaca, Siã, and Chapaa, as commonly it is affirmed. And it semeth to be so, by reason that all the people of these Realmes are in maners and conditions like to those of the China. But in this point as it seemeth they had more wisdome then the Grekes, Carthaginenses, and Romaines, the which for to conquer other straunge Countreys farre off, went so farre from their owne, that they came to lose their owne Countreys at home.

The coast of China is low like as Flaunders coast is. Shouldes and flats perilous to strange fleetes.

And

And considering this, they woulde not so experiment their harmes and hurts any longer: but seeing how the India did consume them much people, & also great riches of their owne Realme, and that they were much troubled and tired of their neighbours, at such time as they went abroade conquering other kings landes, and hauing in their owne Countrey golde, siluer, and all other metall, and much naturall riches of their owne Country, and such great store of marchandize, that all other forraine nations did profite by, and themselues not profite of the benefites of any other Countrey. All the gouernours of these Prouinces, determined to consult hereabout, and to bee humble suters to their owne king, which at that time was, to yeeld a remedie in this case. Who did establish by law, and at this day it is kept verie precisely, that no subiect of his should saple forth of his Realme vpon paine of his life: and that neither by Sea nor lande, no straunger should come to his lande, without the expresse licence of the gouernours of the Countrey where they arriue. With this order and maner the Portingales which go thither doe nowe trade. And when the naturall people of the Countrey will go from one Prouince to another, they giue sureties to returne within a certaine time which is appointed them. And they suffer them not to carie with them any shippes aboue the burthen of one hundreth tonnes, or one hundreth and fiftie, bicause they should not go farre of. And to the ende the shippes of the realme, & other strange ships that come thither in the trade of marchandize, may go safe & come safe; for that purpose the king hath great shippes armed and warlike, which runne by all these coastes and Ilandes, to seeke out theeues and pirots, and within the Riuers they haue for this purpose many smal armed shippes verie good of saple: and especially those that runne by the Prouince of Cansi, which standeth right ouer against the Laos, and the Bramenes their enemies, and also by other prouinces where need is, for to assure in safety such as are traders with their goodes and marchandizes. And bicause they may haue good dispatch in the ports,

A pollitike law that purchaseth infinite benefites.

The kings nauie to cleare the coastes frō enemies and pirots.

they

they haue established by law of the realme, that the first ship which shall come in, shall first be laden and dispatched, and the rest as they come in by their order. They carie in all these shippes galleries verie curious in the poope ouer the helme, and by imitation whereof the Portingales doe vse the like now in their galleons & ships that go for the India. And also they vse a kind of Bitumen or pitch, which they learned of them, which they call the pitch that is made of lime and oyle of fishe, and common sort of pitch, made very smal and so incorporate, which is put betweene the sides of the shippes, and an other newe lining of boordes, that is made vpon the olde, vnto the place where the waters do ordinarily come, which is as much to say, the lading marke, when they are laden: and after that in place of pitch they turne to couer the newe lining with the said newe kinde of pitch, which is so profitable to the boorde or table, that neuer after entereth into it any worme, and within short time it is made so hard with the water as a stone. And with this the ships of China endure a long time, in such sort that they haue put to some of their shippes called Iuncos, the same kinde of pitch foure or fiue times, that their side is as hard as a wall, but they remaine with this kinde of fortification verie heauy to go with the saile. They vse a certaine kinde of pumpes made of many peeces, like to Anorias of Spaine, put a long by the shippes sides within, so artificially, that one man sitting and mouing his feete continually as one that goeth vp a paire of staires, pumpeth a great shippe in little time, although she make verie much water.

dispath at the portes.

Galleries.

A pitch of lime and oyle of fishe.

This pitch is defensiue against the wormes.

Discõmoditie of the pitch.

Pumpes artificial.

The great store of Barkes that are for seruice in Riuers, are innumerable, and it is to the Barkemen an inheritance and continuall habitation. They carie in them their wiues and children in one side of them, couered like a houle, and in the other side they haue made a place for the ease of their passengers. And as the Riuers are verie great, and broade, and nauigable, there are in them continually manie Barkes, like to victapling houses, where is to be had meate

Barkes innumerable.

Multitudes of families alwayes liuing on the water.

and

and drinke verie delicious: and there are likewiſe to be ſolde all fine ſortes of marchandize that are to bee founde in the great Cities. Alſo there are manie poore people of the villages which are ſitting at the Riuers ſides, they dwell alſo in Barkes in the water, without hauing any other place to goe vnto, the men their wiues and children, they bring their couerings for to defende them from the raine and from the Sunne, and they breede in them hennes, Geeſe, Pigeons, and in the outſide they make a little Garden, wherein they plant flowers, and ſome garden hearbs. Theſe get their liuing in going to worke in the Countrey in the ſmall villages at all kind of worke. And the women they paſſe ouer by Barke the wayfairing men, if any come, and they alſo go vp and downe the Riuer with great long canes, & certaine ſmal baſkets made of twigges tied at the ende, wherewithal they catch ſhell fiſhe, for to ſuſteyne themſelues. In other greater Barkes goeth people of wealth, and ſome Barkes do apperteine to riche men, where their ſeruants are, they haue in them certaine great cages made of Canes as long as the Barke, wherein they are accuſtomed to bring vp three or foure thouſande Duckes, which they feede in this manner, when it is day they giue them ſod Riſe, not ſo much as may fill them, and immediately they ſet open the doore where they are, that they may caſt themſelues into the Riuer, by a doore that is made of the ſame Canes: And it is a maruellous thing to ſee, the haſte howe they goe out one vpon another, vntill they come a lande, where they goe feeding all the day vntill night, in the places where Roſes doe growe. The owners of the Roſes do giue to the Barkemen rewardes, bycauſe they make cleane the places where the Roſes growe of the graſſe that growes among them, & at night they make a ſigne or noyſe with a ſmall drumme, and then they come all home. And although there are diuerſe Barks togither, they knowe to which Barke they ſhould goe, by reaſon of the ſounde, and they returne into the ſame Barke with the like furie they went forth. And bycauſe there may be moued ſome

They breede poultrie and foule in the Barkes.

Gardens.

Water foule.

Roſiers.

Rewardes.

The foule returne by noiſe of the drum.

queſtion

question after what sort they raise and breede such great multitudes of Duckes and water foule, you shall understand that in the Sommer time they put two or three thousand egges into dung, and with continual warmth, and gentle heate thereof and with the time, there commeth forth this broode, as the Chickens doe in grand Cairo in Ægypt: and in the Winter they make a great hearth, upon the which they put a great number of egges, and underneath they make a soft, mild, and gentle fire, and so it continueth in one sort for certaine dayes, untill these broodes come forth: and this is the cause that there are such multitudes of them. The Barkes of these fishers, as well in the Sea as in the Riuers, are innumerable, for the which cause it is manifest, that it is the best prouided Countrey of fish that is in the whole world For as I haue sayde, although it be 500. leagues within the lande, they eate euery day fresh fishe of the Sea. And for because this shoulde not seeme incredible, I will referre mee to the order that they haue therfore euery yeare in the month of Februarie and March, & part of April, when the great Freshes do come. The fish of the Sea doe come to cast their spawne, or egges, at the going forth of the Riuers, which is the cause that there doth breede great store of small fishe in the creekes thereof, to which places all the fishermen doe come that dwell along the coast, with their Barkes and nettes with them, they fishe of this fishe, and they cast them into certeine pondes, which they make in the water after the maner of a rounde circle, upon great roddes and course nettes, where they liue and are susteyned untill the fishing be done, which dureth certaine dayes. In this time there they vse too come downe a great multitude of Barkes of all the Prouinces of the China, of the inwardmost part of the lande, in the which Barkes they bring manye Baskets made of twigges, and lined with Paper layde vppon with Dyle, that the water maye not come forth, and euerie one of these doe buy the Fishe that they haue neede of, according to the Baskettes that they doe bring, and forthwith they returne a-

Egges hatched by temperate heat of dounge, also by warmth of fire.

The politike increase and breeding of fishe.

gaine into the lande, mooning them euery day into other water, for too sell them where best they may be payed for them. And al men that are of abilitie doe buy of these baskets for the storing of their pondes, which they haue at their houses, and places of their inheritances. And they are made to growe and increase in short time with the dung of Kine. And in all the ditches of the Cities there is cast in, and doe breede after this sort great quantitie, the which the gouernours and officers of the King doe enioy: whereby is vnderstoode the maruellous industrie which they vse for to enioy the great abundance thereof. And the king hath for these fishings in all the cities which are built vpon the Riuers sides, many sea Rauens, or Cormorants putte into cubbes, where they breede and multiplie: with the which Cormorantes there is made a great fishing. And the Barkes that are appointed for this fishing do come togither, and are put in compasse in the middest of the Riuer, and they doe binde fast the gorges or mawes of these birds, bicause the fishe should not discende downe to the guttes, and they cast them out to fishe, and to swallow downe vntill they fill their mawes of small fishes, and if they meete with any great one, they take him out of his bill, wherewith all they returne into the Barke to cast out all he hath taken. After this sort they continue their fishing vntill they haue what they will, and then they vnlose them, and do returne them to their places, that they may fill themselues at their owne will, and so they put them into their cubbes as before. Some part of these fishes the king doth giue to his officers, and the rest is distributed for the prouision of the Cities for to encrease his reuenues. The Barkes wherein the gouernors and the officers do saile in, haue their couerings high, and their cabans verie well wrought, and gilded both without and within, with their windowes, & casementes adorned with fine shewes. And the Barkes of the officers of lower degree, are well neare built after the same maner, and with as much gallantnesse. There are so many Barkes of the one sort and of the other, that they say com-

Cormorowes to take fish with.

monly

monly that they King maye make a bridge vpon Barkes, that will reach from China to Malaca, which is fiue hundreth leages distant.

A straunge thing worthe the noting.

The xi. Chapter, sheweth of the letters, cyphers, and figures of the people of *China*, and of their studyes in generall.

THe people of China haue no number of letters in their A B C, for all that they write is by figures, signifying the heauen which they call Guant, by one onely figure which is this. And the king which they call Bontai, which is this. And in like order the earth, the Sea, and the rest of the Elaments, and names, using more than fiue thousande ciphers or figures, different one from the other, which they make verie readily. I saw a China doe it, and I requested him to write certaine names, and he shewed to me the numbers that they doe account withall, and they were easie to vnderstand, and to summe and rest any maner of account by Arithmetike by them as well as by those of our ciphers: they make the lines throughout both aboue and beneath, verie equall and with great order, beginning contrarie to vs. After the self same order they haue in their impression which they vsed many peares before it was vsed in Europe. Of their printed bookes which doeth treate of their Historyes, there were two of those bookes in the power of the most excellent Queene of Portugale, the Ladie Katherine that now liueth. And that which seemeth most to be marueyled at, is, that they speaking different languages in the most part of their Prouinces, and the one vnderstande not the other by speache, more than the Gascoines doe vnder-

ſtande the Valencianos, yet generally they vnderſtande one another by wryting, for one maner of figure or cipher doth ſerue euerie one of them, and to ſignifie to them any maner of name. And although they declare one to another of them any woorde that is ſtraunge, yet they vnderſtande that it is the ſelfe ſame thing, bycauſe they ſee plainely that it doeth ſignifie a Citie, which is this, and ſome doe call it Leombi, and others Fu, the one and the other doe vnderſtand that it is to be vnderſtoode a Citie, and the like followeth in all other names. And in this ſort they talke one with another in writing, thoſe of Lapaon, and Ilandes of the Lechios, and the Realme of Guachinchina, without vnderſtanding anie woorde the one with another when they ſpeake. In all Cities the king hath generall Schooles at his owne coſt, and to them doe come an infinite number of Scholers to be taught. A Frier named Gaſpar de la Cruz, being a religious mã of Portingale, of the order of Saint Dominicke, that was in that Countrey in the Citie of Canton, and that wrote plentifully the things he ſaw, and that which happened to him in the voyage, ſayeth, that they teach in theſe their Schooles onely the lawes of the Realme and no other ſcience. But there bee ſome learned men that haue knowledge of the courſe of the heauens, wherby they know the Eclipſes of the Sunne and of the Moone, and theſe teach to particular parſones, of their owne free wil. And Iohn de Barros doeth ſay, that beſide the teaching of their owne lawes, they alſo teach naturall Philoſophie, and that they be great Aſtrologers, which he knoweth by relation of others, and by a booke they brought him from thence of the ſcituation of the Countrey, with a Commentarie vpon the ſame after the maner of an Itinerary, with a Mappe or Carde Geographicall, made by the ſayde people of the China, wherein is mention made of one wall, which beginneth from the Citie of Ocoioy, and ſtandeth betweene two verie high mountaines, euen like vnto a way, paſſage or gate that paſſeth through that whole Region, which doth runne from

ſtraunge effect in their writing.

Free ſcholes.

The lawes taught in Schooles.

Aſtronomers

A notable wall.

foztie

fortie three to fortie fiue degrees from the West to the East, and vntill it meete with another great hill which runneth out into the Easterly Seas, after the maner of a head lande, or Cape, and seemeth to be in length more then two hundreth leagues, which the kinges in times past did commaunde too buylde, for to defende the incursions of the Tartares from his Countrey, their auncient mortall enemies. And all those Mountaines, Riuers, Cities, and Townes, with theyr names, which Carde or Mappe did answere well to the booke, after the maner as they vse there, is after three sortes, that is by stature, league, and iourney, and wee vse the like. And the first and least distance they call Lij, which haue so much space as in a plaine grounde, and a calme day the voyce of a man may be heard, and ten of these Lis doe make one Pu, which doe answere little more then a leage of ours of Spaine, and ten Pues do make a dayes iourney, which they cal Ichan. And it is not to be marueyled that they do not situate the distance of the lande with degrees answering too the celestial Orbe, seeing that at the time of Ptolome it was not vsed of the Geographers, notwithstanding that hee sayth they haue this vse in their Oroscopos when they vse their Astrologie.

The king doeth sende to these Scholers euerie yeare visitors to examine the students, to see and vnderstand if they profite in learning. And those which are able and learne wel, they honor with woordes of commendation, and do animate them that they go forwarde in theyr studie, offering them to increase theyr liuings: and those which do not profite in learning, they commaunde to be put into Prison, and they whip them: and when they are altogither vnprofitable, they dispatch them away euery three yeares. The visitors vse this kinde of examination, when they come to take residence of the Iudges, and the Kinges Officers: and they bring power and authoritie to graduate such as are able men, and of sufficient knowledge in the lawe, which is to make them sufficient for to serue the king in Offices and gouernements,

Visitours of Schooles.

as

as it is more at large declared in an other Chapter following.

The xii. Chapter ſheweth howe that of all this great Realme of China one onely Prince is King and Lorde: and of his Councell and Maieſtie, of his houſe, and Court.

ALl this great Realme is ſubiect to one onely king and monarche which doeth gouerne & reigne in it. And there doth ſucceede in the Realme from fathers to ſonnes, and for lacke of them it goeth to the next in kinred: but, as they marry manie wiues, according to the maner of the Turkiſh Emperours, verie ſeldome times they lacke ſucceſſours. The firſt child that is born of any of his diuerſe wiues is of force inheritor of the Realme: & to the reſt of the children after they are maried, there is appointed to them Cities, wherein they ſhall liue priuately, where they are prouided of all thinges that are needfull for them, according to their degrees, with expreſſe commandement that they go not forth of them, nor euermore after to come at the Court, vpon paine of loſſe of their liues. And when in olde time the kings maried their ſonnes, they made a ſolemne banquet vnto all the knightes and principall Lordes of his Court, and did commaunde to carie with them their ſonnes and daughters richly apparaled, and trimmed; and in this congregation came the Princes, where all the Ladies were ioyned in companie, and there they chooſe for their wiues ſuch as to them ſeemed beſt and fayreſt, and the yong women did the like of the yong men, but nowe they marie themſelues with thoſe of their owne kindred. This ſame ſelfe rigor that is vſed of ſhetting

them

them vp, all the rest of the kinges kindred doe suffer the like, being resident for the most part in the Citie of Cansi, with commandement that some do neuer go forth of their houses too auoyde all manner of occasion and suspicion, of alteration.

The dwelling houses where these Princes dwell are verie great, for within them they haue all the pleasure and contentmēt that is to be thought, aswell of Gardens, Orchards, Pondes of fish of diuerse sortes, as also of Parks, where they haue diuerse kinde of deare and foule, such as may be had in Mountaines and Riuers, all compassed about with walles, which maketh more compasse than a great towne. And as they vnderstand in nothing else but in making much of them selues: they are commonly fat, of good conditions, peaceable, and liberall with straungers. They giue themselues much to Musicke, wherewithall they passe the time, and in other quiet exercises. The gouernours and the kings officers are bound to visite them in all their festiuall dayes, and if they ride along by their doores on horsebacke, they alight downe, and if they be caried in Chaires they descend downe also, and they passe by making little noyse, as men that make no shew of their authoritie, nor ordinarie pompe as they are accustomed to doe. And for this cause they haue their gates of these houses painted with red oker, bycause they shal be knowne. There is not in all this Realme any Lorde that hath subiects, or iurisdiction, or other title, than of an Officer, which is the most honourable title they haue, and it doth signifie in their language, as much as if we in our language should say Lord and knight. It is gotten by studie, and sufficiencie in the lawes of the Realme, and by worthinesse in the field, and by particular seruice made too the king, or to the common wealth. Those wͤ are chosē for the lawes of ye realm, & for men of warre, are extolled according to the desertes that euerie one doe, vntill they come to bee Presidents and gouernours of the Prouinces, and generall Captaines in the Sea, and in the lande: and they are occupied also in other offices of the house

Ample houses with Princely pleasures.

Painted gates.

house and Court of this Prince, and to be of the kings councell, which is the highest office that is. Those which they make sufficient in learning, they choose in this maner. The king doth sende euerie three yeares a Chaen, which is as one should say a Judge of residence to euerie Prouince, that hee may visite the gouernours and officers thereof. And this visitation being ended, hee doth commaund that in the chiefe Citie there be ioyned the most learned students of the most Cities of that iurisdiction, & with the most learned lawiers, and of most authoritie, they are all examined, and such as they fynde sufficient, they doe graduate with much solemnitie, and with great ceremonies, making themselues merie in these feastes certaine dayes with much musicke, daunces, Comedies and banquets: wherewithall hee sendeth them to the Court, that they may receyue the signes of men of lawe, which are certaine Coyfes with eares, and also hattes, and broade and long gyrdles, and there they remaine vntill their letters patents of their Offices be giuen them. And such as are made for the warres, first they choose the Captaines generall, exalting the valiauntest souldiers with honourable & profitable roomes: for they do not let to esteeme all such as doe valiantly, and to rewarde them with great liberalitie, increasing theyr gifftes according to theyr deserts. The rest of the Offices are giuen by the king himselfe, but these rise no higher in degree, but to haue this title of Captaine generall, for to enioy many liberties, freedomes and gaine, which is an ordinarie thing to such.

Graduating.

Choise of the Captaines.

This Prince seldome or neuer goeth forth of his Palace, for the conseruation of his greatnes, and the authoritie of his estate, but when hee goeth to the warres, or do remoue with his Court. And he hath within the compasse of his house all the pleasures and pastimes that may bee deuised for the content of mankinde, and the lodginges of his sonnes and kinsfolkes are so great, as it is before sayd, whereof the Maiestie and greatnesse of his house may be imagined. And that it is not to bee marueyled that it is so great, as some doe say

Rare cõming of the king abroade.

the

the Citie of Paquin is, where he is resident for the most part, by reason of the greate warres hee hath with the Tartarres, that in one day from Sunne to Sunne, a man cannot ride from one gate to another. And besides his Palace, the houses are verie great which apperteine to those of his Counsell, and the rest of his gouernours and captaynes, and of manie other men of lawe, that are alwayes resident in the Court. The same is sayde by the Citie of Manquin, where in olde time the kinges were accustomed to dwell and haue theyr Courte, by reason it was set in a fruitfull soyle, freshe and calme. And in remembraunce that he hath beene continually resident there, they haue in that Citie in the house of the treasurer of the kings rentes in that Prouince a table of Golde, wherein is written the name of the king that then reigned, couered with a riche Curteine, and they goe to it and reuerence it, as though it were the king himselfe. And so all the Officers and Lawyers, and chiefe Gouernours are bounde to drawe the Curteine aside in all festiuall dayes, that is, in the time of the newe Moones, which amongest them is the first day of the Moneth. And in the rest of the Prouinces, there are other Tables like to this, but they go not to them to make anie reuerence, but when they doe discouer them: whereby you may vnderstande the veneration that they giue to their prince. And they giue him title of the Lorde of the worlde, and the Sonne of heauen. The seruants and suche as serue in his house are gelded men, by reason of the number of wiues they haue, and so are the most part of his chiefe Counsaile bycause that with more assurance they may go in to him, & consult with him in the businesse of the gouernment of his Realme, and estate of his warres: and no others doe speake with him but those. His Realme is so large and long, that for to goe by iourneys from the Citie of Canton, to his Court, is foure or fiue monethes iourney: and yet there are other Cities further. Hee hath knowledge euerie Moneth, and relation of all thinges that doe happen in euerie Prouince, aswell touching the state, warres, and rentes,

Betwene & gate n than a da iourney o horseback

A table o golde.

The kings title.

An argun of a large dominion.

as of al other ſucceſſes, with ordinarie poſtes that the Gouernours do diſpatch to him for this effect. The ſame order of the poſte is as we haue among vs. Barros doth write, that they runne with collers of Belles, and others that haue beene in that Countrey ſay, they vſe to blowe with a horne to aſke horſes, and to giue knowledge to Barkes to paſſe Riuers. The Embaſſadours of Princes beeing his friendes or enemies, are receiued with greate veneration: they lodge them, and prouide them of all things needful with great liberalitie: and when they come where the king is, al the Lords and knights of the Court go forth to receiue them, & they giue them great gifts and preſents, and honor them with the title of Lawiers. Some kings being farre of from him, as the king of Aua, Siam, Melitij, Bacham, Chabam, Varagu, which fall to the north partes of Pegu, and do acknowledge him obedience, in remembrance that in olde time they were his ſubiectes, they ſend him ordinarily their Embaſſadors with ſome preſent, & for the great iourney they haue to this kings Court, they alwayes ſend with the embaſſage foure or fiue perſons, euerie one with like authoritie, that if it happe ſome of them to die in the way, or vntill they be diſpatched from thence: and if they die not of anie diſeaſe, they alwayes poyſon one or two of thē in ſome banket, vnto whom they make verie ſumptuous Sepulchres, with Epitaphs conteining what they were, and the cauſe of their comming, and by what prince they were ſent: and this is for to continue the memorie and greatneſſe of the renowme of his Realme. The Embaſſadors of the reſt of the Princes are ſo priueleged in ſuch ſort, that thoſe of his counſaile hauing condemned too death one Bartholomew Perez, and all the reſt of his companie that was ſent to this cōtrie, by the gouernour of the India as Embaſſadour of the king Don Emanuel of Portingal, ſurmiſing that their embaſſage was falſe, and that they were ſpies, by reaſon of a certaine relation giuen againſt them by the embaſſadors of the king of Malaca, and the king himſelf vnderſtanding of the matter, did commaund, that their Embaſſage being falſe or true, it

was sufficient that there should be no hurt done to their persones, seeing they were entred within the realme with the title of Embassadors. Other there are that come for some common weales, which are Lordes that do owe obedience to him: they make no entertaynment to such, but vse them with a strange kind of Ceremonie. When they say to them that they shall go to see the king, they appoint them the day and houre, and they cause them to goe on foote, or on horsebacke, with bridles of strawe for humilitie. And in comming too a great place that is before the kings house, they stay vntill there come vnto them an Officer of the kings, who doth the office of the maister of Ceremonies, and doe commaunde them to passe forwarde. And at a certaine place they kneele downe, & hold vp both their hands together, as though they prayed to God, & they behold one quarter part of the houses of the kings palace, where they tel them that the king is, & at times in equall space, they make other fiue times their prayers, and without turning their shoulders, they returne backewarde with the like Ceremonies: and this being done, they send them away. This say they, is to go to see the king. If they giue them licence to say what they will, they remaine in the last prayers on their knees, vntill there come to them an other officer which is the Secretarie that writeth downe all that they aske, and with saying to them that they will consult of it with the Lord of the world, they are sent away for that time, vntill they bee dispatched with the determination and opinion of his chiefe Counsaile.

The XIII. Chapter ſheweth of the Preſidentes and Officers, which are in euery Prouince, and the order which they haue in the Gouernment of them.

.o. officers prouince.

THE King doth prouide Officers for the Gouernment of euery Prouince, beſides ordinarie Iudges, which are in ſome prouince more the three thouſande; as alſo fiue Preſidents; and euery one of them hath his iuriſdiction by himſelf, of diuers cauſes: the chiefe of them is called the Tutan, which is a Uiceroy or gouerner of al the Prouince, vntoo whome they come generally with the knowledge of al great griefes and ſmal offences. And al the penalties thereof, the ordinary charges being taken away, he ſendeth to the court, and with the relation of al the newes that doeth happen euery moneth. His auctoritie and maieſtie is ſo great, that he is not reſident where the reſt of the Lawyers are, bicauſe hee wil not be viſited and frequented of them. The ſecond in dignitie is the Ponchaſi, which is aſmuch too ſay, as the chiefe gatherer of the kings rents, and Preſident of the Counſel of the kings reuenues. This office executeth he without the conſel of any Lawyers. There are many other officers that doo ſerue to recouer the kings rentes with the which they come to the Tutan as afore ſaide, and it is at his charge too commaunde too pay al mens wages, ordinary and extraordinary charges, & to take accompt of them, as head Gouerner of al inferiour Officers. The thirde in dignitie is the Anchaſi, which is the Preſident of the ciuil and criminal Iuſtice who doth ſee and determine withal his hearers and Officers all wightes and buzines, which goe in degree of appellation to his tribunal frō the reſt of the ordinary Iudges of that Prouince,

uince, & all other thinges which are conuenient for the good gouernmēt & expedition of iustice. The fourth is the Aytao, who is the purueiour general, and President of the Counsell of warres, too whome doth aperteine the liuing of men and prouiding of shippes, vittailes, and munitions for the ships of warre, that goe to the Sea, and for armes by lande and for ordinary garisons of the cities and frontier Townes, and to know what straungers do come, and from whence they come and what they wil. The fifth is the Luytisi, which is the Captaine general that doth put in execution that which is ordeined by the Aytao and those of his councel. And whē there is giuen occasion of any warres of importāce with any mighty Prince, then goeth this President in person too rule or gouerne in them. Al these Officers are of great auctoritie, and such as are officers vnder them, are wel taken & of great estimation. Euery one of them, excepte the Luytisi, haue ten hearers or Iudges in his councell, which doo assist him, ordinarily for the dispatching of his buzines, which are men of great auctoritie and estimation: and when they be in cōsceel, fiue of them doo sit of the right side of the President, and fiue of the left. Those that sit on the right side be of more preheminence then the other fiue, in that they weare girdelles of golde, and yellow hattes: and they of the lefte side, do weare gyrdelles of siluer, and theyr hattes are blewe. And it is not permitted that any other Iudges of the Lawe weare these gyrdelles of golde and siluer and hattes of these collours, vnlesse they bee such as are Capteynes or other officers of the men of warre. And if by chaunce the Presidēt dye, there doth succeede in his place the most auncient Iudge next too him. And when there is any need to go to visit the Prouince, there goeth one of them with the auctoritie that euery one of them haue too put order in the thing that is conuenient to be reformed: These Presidents and the other Iudges do bring in theyr shoulders and brestes the kings armes, and they are a certain kind of serpents woeuen with threed of gold. They haue many other inferiour officers: and although they be but

Lawyers they alwaies speake too them kneeling on theyr knees, except onely the head keeper of the prisons which is an office amongst them of much estimation. This mā when he commeth in kneeleth down, & ryseth vp again whē he speaketh to thē. And when these Iudges come newlie too the prouinces, there go forth to receiue them al the men of the warre with many banners and other souldierlyke shewes, and all the rest of the Lawyears and officers with great myrth and ioy. They haue on these dayes al the streetes very much decked with diuers sortes of silkes, and with bowes & branches and with dyuers sortes of flowres of most sweete smel, and they accompany them vntoo the streetes where they muste lodge with much muslike and diuers sortes of instrumentes, Lykewise the king doth commande to prouide with the opinion of al his counsell al the rest of the ordinarie Officers of the Cities and Townes of his Realme, with consideration that they bee not of the saide Countrie whether they shal go to minister Iustice, that they bee not moued by affection too doo what they ought not, nor behaue themselues with insolencie, nor yet that they bee not made mightie, with the auctoritie in commaunding, in suche sorte that they may cause some insurrection and alteration. This Lawyers nor the rest of the officers that are appointed too them, of these supreme offices, do make any maner of preparation when they depart from the Court too the place of theyr gouermentes, but onely of apparel and a fewe seruauntes that serueth them, for in al places where they shal passe through, the King hath at his cost, houses appointed and officers, that shal lodge and serue them with al thinges necessarie, and doo prouide for them Horses, and barkes if they haue neede of them. And for theyr meate it is appointed what shal be giuen to euery one of thē, according to his degree and office. And this liberality they vse with al the rest of the Lawyers, generally although they go not prouided of offices. At such tyme as they come, they aske them if they will haue theyr stipende that is appointed for them, in meate or money: if they wil haue it in meate, they

serue

serue them very daintily, as too men that haue auctoritie to commaunde too whippe these Officers if they doo not theyr dueties. And when they wil lodge in the house of some of their acquaintance or friendes bicause they wil be at more liberty too bee merrie, then they giue them that portion as is apointed too them in mony. Al these houses are very wel prouided for, by such as haue the charge of them: it toucheth the Ponchasi of the Prouince, for that hee must take accompte of such as are officers, of the expences that is made of all these vittailing & lodging houses. In al these houses they lodge al the ordinarie officers that they may exercyse theyr Offices, as Notaries, serieants, porters, euen vnto the executours of Iustice, vnto whome the king doth giue meat & wages sufficiently and are payde euery Moneth, bicause they should not carrie nor take any bribes of any person. And for this they haue an order that none of these Lawyers can prouide or cõmaunde any thing in Iustice, but that it must passe before al these officers, and in publike audience which is done in this maner. The Iudge is set downe in his tribunal, and at the entery in of the hal stande the porters which declare with loude voice the persons name that cõmeth in to aske iustice, and what hee demaundeth: who falleth downe on his knees a good way frõ the Iudge, & doth propoũd with a lowde voice his cause, or telleth them by wryting what hee woulde haue. And this petition one of the Notaries doeth take and reade with a lowd voice: and being seene and heard, hee doeth prouide and commaunde Iustice to be done therevpon, and doth signe it with his owne hand with red Inke, and if he doo not so, then hee doth remit too an other inferiour Iudge that he may do it. This maner of order is kept so precisly that by no meanes they can bee bribed, vnles the officers shoulde vnderstande it, and as they shal bee by them absolued or condemned in their residences they feare them, all these are very precise too execute that which they are commaunded as wel Notaries as Serieantes and the rest. And if any of thẽ do make any fault in theyr office, cuẽ at the very howre there

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is put in their hands a littel banner, and ſo doo holde it in theyr handes kneeling vntil all buzines at that audience bee diſpatched and concluded. And ſoorthwith the Lawyer doth commaund the executioner that he giue him as many whips as too him ſeemeth good, which are ſuch as hereafter ſhall bee declared: in ſuch ſorte that all thoſe Officers go alwayes for the moſt parte with plaiſters and markes, and this is ſo ordinary among them, that they take it for no ſhame too go in that ſort: When one of theſe Iudges doo walke in the Cytie, he goeth accompanied with theſe miniſters, Officers, & other people among them: and there goeth before him eight Officers by both ſides of the ſtreetes: the twoo formoſt goe with maces of ſiluer made as oures are, put into certain long ſtaues, and they ſignifie that theſe Iudges and Lawyers are in theyr office in place of the King: the other twoo that followe, doo carry twoo long canes in theyr handes on high; which do repreſent the trewe and rightful iuſtice they ought too doo: and thother twoo that followe after theſe doo carrie other twoo canes, haling them vppon the grounde, and knit to them certaine long red gyrdles, and in the point of them certaine taſſelles which are the inſtrumētes of iuſtice where with al they whippe. And the twoo porters go with certain tables liſted vpp after the faſhion and making of a target: wherein is written the name of the Iuſtice, and the charge and Office that he hath: and thoſe that go before theſe do bid with a lowde voice, that they giue place, bycauſe it is not permitted that any man of what degree ſoeuer hee bee ſhoulde paſſe a thwart the ſtreet nor walke, as long as theſe Iudges paſſe, vppon payne too bee whipped without remiſſion that ſhoulde doo againſt it. This Prince hath ſo great care, that his Iudges & Officers as wel the Gouerners as Preſidents & al the reſt ſhould vſe theyr offices wel, as they ought to do, that although he do ſend from three yeeres, to three yeeres officers which are called Chaenes to take accōpt of the Iudges, yet beſides that, from vi. Monethes to vi. Monethes, or from yeere too yeere, hee doth diſpatche with all ſecret other

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extraordinary Iudges which are called Leachis, & are men that he hath great trust in, and those that are very familier with him, that they may visit those Prouinces with so great iurisdiction and autority, that without returning too him, they may chasten al maner of offices be they neuer so great, and put out of office al Iudges & Officers at their wil. And because they shoulde execute this with more Iustice, there is taken of them an othe of their faithfulnesse and secresie, giuing them to drinke three tymes of the wyne, they vse commonly to drinke of, which is the maner of their othe. And bicause hee may goe with more secrecie, the Secretaries doo make the letters patents without any name of him that shal goe, nor whether hee shal goe more then to shewe in the letters patents that in what place soeuer that Lawyer shall come and present those letters patents, he bee obeyed as the king himselfe, vnto whom he sheweth by worde of mouth in secrete, the Prouince whether he shall go. And so hee departeth vnknowen without knowing vnto any other whether he shal go. And in comming too the place hee seeth, and vnderstandeth al things that are vsed there, and no man knoweth what hee is, nor what hee pretendeth, and in what sorte all officers do minister Iustice. And this not geuing knowledge of any thing what his comming is, hee staieth vntill a day that the Presidents doo ioyne togither with the Tutam, too make a general consultation which is once euery Moneth. Then he goeth in to present his letters patentes, & presently they arise euery one of them and goe aside with greate humilitie to heare iudgement against themselues, and foorthwith they are executed. And if there bee any suspencion, then he doth prouide in their places other newe officers: and if hee finde that they haue serued wel, hee doth honor thē much & doth remoue them to better places & of more trust. These are woont too visit the Schooles & examine the Studentes: and such as doo not learne, hee commaundeth them too bee whipt and too bee put in prison, and the vnprofitable are put out of their places, & such as are vertuous hee offereth them

fauour and promiseth them hope of exhibition. There is an other office or dignitie aboue all these, which is that of the Quinchai, and is asmuch to say the sell of gold. This man goeth not out of the court, but when any great matter doeth concerne the king, & of the good gouernment, and quietnes of the whole realme. In all causes as wel ciuil as criminal, the Iudges doo proceede orderly in their causes, and doo make their actes and doo examine the witnesses in publike before their officers and ministers, bicause there shall be no falsehod nor deceipt vsed in the asking of that which they know, nor in wryting therof. They examine euery witnesse by himselfe, and if they doo agree in their declarations and depositions they put them aside, and doo aske thone and thother, vntil they come to differ among themselues, bicause by reason that thone and thother doo alledge they may come to declare the trueth the better. And when they can not vnderstande the certaintie, they whippe them, and giue them torment in such sort, that by one way or other, they may declare the trueth effectually. They haue great respect in these causes too men of estimation of whome they presume that they are not persons that will lye. In causes of great importaunce and that doeth touche graue personnes, the Iudges doo not trust their Notaries too wryte the informations, but they with their hands do set down al the acts. Of such as are prisoners for debt, there is a tyme appointed wherein they shal pay them, and if they performe not, they commaund that there bee giuen too them many whippes, and they turne and commaunde a newe. Another tyme, and if they pay not, they returne too whippe them againe: and in this sorte they proceeded with them vntil they dye with strypes, if their kinsefolkes doo not pay for them. When any dweller wil passe to another habitation in some other street then where he dwelt before, or go too some other Towne, they haue a custome too ring vppon an emptie Bason by all the neighbours with a common crier which shal say that such a person doth remoue, and too what place, that if he owe any thing, that they come

to de-

to demaunde it before hee depart, bycause no person shoulde loose any thing dewe too them: if this person doo absent himselfe without making this diligence, the Justices do compel al his neighbours too pay al the debtes that he owe, bicause they were so negligent and did not aduise the Justice of his remouing. Those which are Prisoners for theefte or murder, are kept perpetually in the prisons, vntil they dye by whipping, or by hunger or cold. For although they be condemned too death, they doo execute the Judgement with such deliberation, that many yeeres after they come to die for necessitie, as before is declared, or of theyr natural death. And for this cause there are a great number of prisoners in euery Cytie and Towne. And it is affirmed that only in the Cytie of Canton are accustomed too be more then 15. thousand. And by reason there are many people, and there is littel almes giuen, the poore people doo giue themselues to steale. There is in this Cytie and in all the reste which are of the Metropolitan xiii. Prisons, and in euery one of them a wall of a great circuit very heigh, & so large, that they haue within thē lodges for the head keeper, and his officers, and for the souldiers of the watche, and ordinarily there are gardens, and streetes and courtes within, where the prisoners doo walke by day, and there are many victayling houses, where they dresse meate, and doo hire beddes, and Taylers shoppes; and other artes, that the prisoners doo vse, too sustaine and maintaine themselues. Of these thirtiene prisons there are alwaies occupyed six of them with men, which are condemned too death, and in euery one of them are a hundreth souldiers and more with theyr Captaine, too keepe the saide prison. Euery offender doth bring hanging at his neck a borde which commeth too his knees and a spanne broade, wherein is written the facte wherefore hee was condemned, they go with fetters, but in the day tyme they are taken of, by reason they may worke too get wherewithal to sustaine them, ouer & aboue that which the king dooth giue them, which is a certaine measure of Rice euery day, vnto such as are condēned

too dye, they shut them vppe in the night in certaine lodges, which are neere too the courts, and they make them ly vpon theyr backes, and vppon them doo runne cercaine Iron chaynes past through certaine collers that are betwene prison and prison: wherewith they are so fast made, that they can not escape. And they laye vpon them certaine couerings made of timber, that there remayneth to them no more space but theyr length and breadth which is a most painfull imprisonment. They neuer execute the Iudgement that is giuen vppon them, that are condemned too dye, but when the Chaenes and Leuchis doo go too take residence & doo make a secret visitation. Then these Iudges do aske for the roules of them that are condemned & the causes. And although that theyr sentences are confirmed by the king and of those of his chiefe Councell, they returne too see againe theyr factes, with the rest of the Lawyers that doo gouerne: and beeing seene, they chose among vi. or viii. of those that doo seeme too them too bee most culpable. And they commaund the head keeper of the prisons, that hee giue order too carry them too suffer execution. And this beeing done they turne too see againe anewe the factes, that by any meanes or waies they may suspend the execution of some of them. And if they finde any not so woorthie of death as the rest, they commaund that hee bee put aside from the reste, and that there bee shotte of iii. peeces of ordinaunce which is a signe or token that they take out of the prison such as shal dye. They turne to cõsult again to see if they can deliuer any other, & when they come not, then they commaunde to shootte of other three peeces, that they may bee caried out to the fieldes: and before they go foorth of councel they returne too see theyr causes a new. In this tyme they are set vppon a heape of asshes and they giue them meate, tarrying for the last resolution, wherin they are accustomed to deliuer or relieue some. And bicause execution shoulde bee made in such as doo remaine, they commaunde too shoote of other three peeces of ordinance, which is a signe that they shoulde dispatch them: foorthwith there are roung

all the Belles, and there is through all the Citie a great rumour, as though they were all amased, bicause it is a thing which is seldome tymes done. In these daies they shut vppe theyr shoppes, and no body doo wooꝛke, noꝛ they sell any thing vntil sunne set, which is when they take the bodies after execution done vppon them out of the fieldes foꝛ to burie them. And from that tyme they doo any buzines, and doo open their shoppes. Also these Iudges of residence doo see the roull of the theeues which still remayne in pꝛison & in recompence of coꝛrection they commaunde them alwayes too bee whipte. And they vse in this cause so much rigour, choler, and haste, as they vse charytie and clemencie with such as they put too death, foꝛ there is no facte so much abhoꝛred as that is. The whippes they geue them are most cruel & they giue them vpon the calfes of theyꝛ legges, theyꝛ shoulders turned downewarde and theyꝛ handes tyed behinde them with canes as bꝛoade as a hande, and of thickenesse of one finger which they keepe in water, that they may wooꝛke the greater effecte, in such sooꝛte that at the firste stroke the blood cõmeth out, and the executioners doo whippe them togither, one vppon one legge and thother vppon the other and they do it with such dexteritie and cunning, that of only two stripes, I know not who is able too suffer them: and of fiftie oꝛ sixtie it happeneth that there dye many, bycause theyꝛ sinewes are all loosed and vndoone. Some Portingales doo affirme that had beene in these pꝛisonnes, that there dyed euery peere moꝛe then twoo thousande men of these whippings, & some fel made of them, and of hunger and cold wh they suffered. The sayde Iudges are pꝛesent, when they whip them: and all the tyme that it endureth, they are occupyed in eating and dꝛinking and in passymes without any maner of griefe therefoꝛe, and by reason it happeneth that somtimes some of these Lawyers beeing hyred with greate giftes oꝛ friendshippe are accustomed too set at libertie some of these pꝛisoners, and put others in theyꝛ places, foꝛ there neuer lacketh some miserable people that foꝛ a little gaine wil put themselues

themselues too suffer these strokes, and do consent too take vppon them the name of the offenders, and too remedie this when the offences are greeuous they doo set downe in a booke that they haue for this purpose the signes of the face, and the maner of the collour and disposition of the offender, and they cause him too make his firme and signe, that there bee not deceipt vsed. The punishment which they ordinarily doo vse too giue such as are offenders in small causes, are whippinges fewe or many according too theyr facte: and some are put in the common streetes to be shamed, hanging a great and square table at theyr necks, being three spannes broade or litle more, made of peeces, & a hole in the middest which doeth gyrde all the necke, wherein are written all his faults, and so they bring them foorth and carry them after this sorte three and foure dayes according too the offences they did. Such prysoners as are very poore, and bee prysoners for greeuous offences and haue no science howe too get theyr liuing, they giue them leaue for certaine daies that they go foorth of the prison too aske almes in the Citie.

Such as doo commit treason against the king they burne them, bicause there shall remayne no memory of the bones of them that do offende in this offence. They that sinne in adultery do suffer death: and such as do giue this libertie too theyr wyues, are greeuously punished.

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The xiiii. Chapter sheweth of the gouernment, and foresight which the king hath, and doeth for the causes of his warres.

The same care and diligence that this mightie prince hath, that there bee good gouernement, and iustice ministred rightly in all his Realme, the selfesame care, and much more hath hee in foresight for the causes of his warres, that hee hath continually with those Princes which border neare vnto him, and specially that he hath with the Tartarres. For which cause as it is sayd, there is in euery Prouince a President and Counsailers of warre, and generall and ordinarie Captains, which do raise vp people, and that do put in practise exercise both at the sea & at lande, according to the occasions which are offered. And also there are in the most cities, Captaines and Officers, with souldiers and garisons, for to keepe and defende them, where they watch and warde with all order of souldierlike discipline night and day, and with the squadrons which are necessarie assisting at the gates, not letting any man come in, nor go forth, but that hee is registred. These gates are opened and shut with the order and licence of the Captaines, which doe sende to the Souldiers written vpon tables white limed, with their firmes euerie day. When they shut them, they put within the ioyntes of them a paper glewed, and sealed vpō with their seale, which is not taken away vntill the morning, that they send to them to open them. In all the Bulwarkes wherein is watch kept, there do assist men of authoritie that doe remoue euery quarter the body of the watch, which is ordinarie, and the officers are going alwayes in such businesse as they are appointed with the number of the souldiers that seeme good to them in

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the watch and counterwatch. All these captaines are of the same Prouinces bycause the loue of their Countrey maye cause them to serue truely, and cause them to labour the more to defende them. And bycause there may be more quietnesse, it is not permitted that any man shall carie any weapon, to offend, nor too defende, but onely such as are men of warre. And besides these, there are in the frontier townes & fortes which they haue, in the confines of the Laos, and Bramenes, and Tartarres, and Massagetas, ordinarie garisons for the defence of them, and of the number which haue bene spoken of, was within the compasse of 200. leages, but this is done with aduantage, by reason that in all partes of the Countrie is great habitation, & hauing captains which do giue them assaultes, they come as many to the defence as is needefull, vntill the king come with his great power, which he hath alwayes in a readinesse, of manie footemen and horsemen for his garde and maiestie, and to bridle the comming in of his enemies. And for this cause he is alwayes resident in the Citie of Paquin, bycause it is a place that standeth most commodiously for the succour of all his townes, that are next bordering vpon any forraine Prince. The people of China are verie prompt of wit, and stoute in all the feates that doth apperteine to the warres. And although they are stoute men, and of great courage for to abide, and to giue battaile to the enemie, yet they alwayes vse straunge pollicies, and all kind of fireworkes in theyr battailes, both by sea and land, in such sort that there was nothing that did cause the Portingales to maruaile so much when they went thither the first time, as to see that they vsed Artillarie. Whereof they came to vnderstande that they had artillarie among them many yeares before it was vsed in Europe. And it appeareth to be so, bicause that in the Realme of Pegu, whether they came in olde time, and where in their conquestes, and in their fortifications, amongst other things they left their Artillarie, & where there is founde at this day, Belles and Gunnes of mettall, which they made. They vse also of all kinde of armour, and the most

principall

principall Gentlemen of the Countrie do carie foure swords with them, and fight with two of them togither, with great running.

They enter into the warres compassed about with many seruantes and familiar friendes, which are footmen, well armed, and very gallant, for it is so permitted to all souldiers, and men of warre. And by reason this king is so mightie and rich, they which serue are paied at their time without any delay, & with great liberalitie. And all such as shew themselues valiant, are highly esteemed, and rewarded with great gifts. The Tartarres and other enemies which they take prisoners in their warres, they vse them with no other captiuitie, then to place them to serue for men of warre in other frontiers of theirs, which do border ouer against other Princes, and they are payed as hee doth pay the rest of his subiects, and these weare certaine red hattes, and the rest of their apparell euen after the fashion of the sayd people of China. The laced hattes all people do weare, which are iudged for anie offence to serue in any towne that doth border ouer against any other Prince, as those which go to Oran, or Melilla, and so they say in their iudgements that they banish them to weare red hattes. This Prince is serued with some Souldiers which are by nature of the high mountains of Russia, which are a free people, and liue after the maner of warriours, like to the Esquizaros, which are mightie men, and with red haire, & great beards, and they weare cut hose like to the Tudescos, and broade swords, & they are called Alimenes, whom some doe thinke that they are Almaines, but if it were so, there woulde haue beene knowledge of this great Realme long before. Likewise hee is serued of other tall men of twelue or thirteene pawmes of height, and they doe assist them in the defence of the townes that stand in greatest daunger, of whom we can not vnderstande of what region they are, and they make so great account of their owne wisdome, after the maner of the Greekes, that they say that they are those which haue two eyes, and the people of Europe but one: and that all the

reſt of other Nations are ſtarke blinde.

The xv. Chapter ſheweth of the religion, lawes, and ceremonies which they haue and vſe.

IT is greatly to conſider, that the Chinaes being ſo wiſe in their gouernement of theyr common weales, & of ſo ſubtile a wit for all artes, that they are ſo falſe of vnderſtanding, and ſo barbarous and blinde in the worſhipping of their falſe & vaine idolatrie. For they haue no manner of knowledge of the true God, more than they imagine that al things which are created, doth depende from aboue, from whence doe come the conſeruation and gouernment of them all, without knowing particularly who is the authour, attributing it to the heauen it ſelfe, which they holde for the greateſt of their Gods, and ſo they ſignifie it with the firſt figure of their A B C. They worſhip the Moone, the Sunne, and Starres, and all other Images which they make without reſpect, and ſome figures or ſhapes of Lawyers, and of the prieſtes of their Idolles which they were moſt affectioned to, in ſome principal ſeruice they had done. And likewiſe they worſhip any maner of ſtones that they ſette vpon theyr Aultars, where they doe make their Sacrifices, and alſo the Diuell which they paint after the ſame ſhape and manner as we doe among vs. The common ſort of people doe ſay that they worſhip him, for bycauſe the good people, hee maketh Diuels, and the euill people he conuerteth into Kine, and other kind of beaſtes. The men of moſt knowledge and that be moſt pollitique, they ſay they worſhip him & regarde him, bycauſe he ſhould do thē no hurt. They haue in al cities and places of habitation, and alſo in the fieldes, a great num-

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ber of sumptuous Temples, and of goodly buildings, which are of great Maiestie. There are two sortes of Priestes, and they are contrarie the one to the other in maners: the one sort goeth all shauen, and appareled in white, and with certaine high cappes made of felt somewhat piked before. These sort liue in common togither, and haue their chambers and lodgings after the maner of our Friers. The others doe weare their haire long, and deuided in the higest parte of their head with a strike verie curiously varnished with blacke, after the fashion of a hand closed togither. They apparell themselues with silke or blacke Serge as all the rest of them do vse: they dwell euery one of them by themselues: they assist in the seruice of the Temples, and in the festiuall dayes and burying. The one and the other are not maried, but they are euill liuers, and therefore they are not esteemed among the people, and they are punished with stripes amongst the Iudges for a small occasion. These people do offer in the Mornings and Euenings in their Temples, Incense, Beniamin, the wood of the Eagle, and other things of different and sweet smels. And the place of praier which they vse in their house, is generally at the entrie in of their gates, where their Idolles stande. When they lanche their shippes into the Sea at the first making, the Priestes goe aparelled with long garments, being verie rich of silke to make their Sacrifices in the poupes of them, where the place of praier is, and they offer painted figures, and they cut and burne them before their Idolles with certaine ceremonies that they make, & sing songes with an vnorderly tune, sounding certaine little belles. And they worship the Diuel, where they haue him painted in the fore part of the Shippe, because as they say, he should doe no hurt to the Shippes. In all this discourse they are eating and drinking at discretion. When they pretende to go vpon any iourney eyther by Sea or lande, or begin anie busines that seeme difficult or hard, they vse lottes, and cast them before their Idolles. These are made of two stickes, after the fashion of two halfe nuts,

rounde at the one ſide, and the other ſide plaine. And before they be caſt, they returne to their Idols with fayre wordes, beſeeching them to giue good chaunce, and fortune: for by them they thinke doeth come good ſucceſſe, or euill to them. And if it happe as they deſire, then they will make too them great offeringes: and with this they are caſt, and if they fall with the plaine ſide vpwarde, or the one ſide rounde, and the other plaine, they haue it for an euill ſigne: and they returne againſt the Idolles, and they ſpeake to them ſhamefull and diſhoneſt wordes, calling them diſhoneſt dogges. And when they be weary of calling them ſo any longer, then they turne againe with faire and ſweete wordes, and aſke them pardon of that which they haue ſayde, and deſire them too giue them good fortune, promiſing them more then before they had offered them: wherevpon they turne to caſt anewe, and by this order they proceede prayſing them, and ſetting naught by them. And when they tarrie long, and if it bee a matter of importaunce, they runne to them, and take them, and caſt them into the Sea, and ſometimes into the fire, ſuffering them to burne a little, and they whippe them, and ſpurne at them with their feete, vntill it happe to them as they deſire, that is, the rounde partes of theſe ſtickes to fall vpward. And then they worſhip and prayſe them with much Muſicke and ſongs, and cary to them offerings, of Hennes, Duckes, and Rice, all dreſt, and a Pigges heade ſodden, which they much eſteeme, and a great iarre of Wine, and of all this they ſet ſome part of it vpon the Altar in a Platter wherein is the toppes or poyntes of the Pigges eares and ſnout, and the naples of Duckes and Hennes, and a fewe granes of the Rice, and ſome droppes of wine, and all the reſt they themſelues eate before the Idols, with much mirth and ioy. When there dieth any maried man that hath a wife and children and familie, immediately after he is dead they apparell him with the beſt apparell he had, and they ſet him on a Chaire, and there commeth to him his wife, and doth put herſelfe vpon her knees before him, to take her leaue of him

with

with many teares, and pitiful wordes she speaketh, and consequently his children and kinsfolkes after the like order, and and all the rest of his household following. And this ceremonie beeing done, they put him in to a coffin made of the wood of Canfora, which is conseruatiue and of sweete smel, well made fast in all poynts, bycause hee shoulde not smell. After this they put him into a Chamber, which is hanged with white hangings of linnen cloth vpon two bankes, and do couer him with a cloth euen to the ground, wherein is shaped and formed the dead man, very naturally made. And in another place of the house without, or in the gate house comming in, they doo put for ceremonie a Table with candles lighted therevpon, all full of bread, and of sundrie sortes of fruites. And in this sort they keepe him xv. dayes, in the which time there do come at the night season Priestes continually to offer vp their sacrifices, and to pray theyr owne inuentions after the maner of Gentiles. They bring many Papers painted, and with certaine ceremonies they make, they burne some of them there, and the rest they hang vp in rowes athwart for this cause, and they cast them together, making noyse that they sende the deade men to heauen. All their superstitions done, they take the coffin, and carie him to the field, where the rest of the dead bodies are, where in time they are consumed. In all these dayes there are in the house the Tabels set with manie kinde of meates, that the priestes may eate and drinke, and their friendes and acquaintaunce that do visite them.

The mourning apparell which they vse, is most sharpe, bycause they bring their clothes made of most course woolle, nearest to the flesh, girte with hard coards, and on theyr heades certaine nightcappes of the sayde cloth, with edges like to hattes, which falleth downe vppon their eares. They weare this for father or mother two or three yeares. And if they haue any Sonne that is a Lawyer, he doth let the exercise of his office which hee hath, and doth retire himselfe all this time vntill he hath done, and then he returneth a freshe to

the court, to do as he did before. But those that are not so nere in kindred, do apparell them selues with rawe linnen cloth, not verie course. They doe easily beleeue lyes and feigned fables or tales, that men be conuerted into beasts, and beasts into men, and other ignorant toyes like too these. It is not knowne certainly that any haue preached to them the Gospel vntill the Portingales came thither, more thã in the coast of Molea, which is the India, of the side of the sea of Bengala, which they cal now S. Thomas. Thither came an Armeniã on pilgrimage, & did affirme to the Portingals, ỳ at that time were there resident, that in the publike wrytings, which the Armenians had, there was relation and memorie that before this glorious Apostle did suffer martyrdome, hee past to the China, and there did preache the Gospell. And bycause hee wrought little fruite in them, hee returned to Molea, leauing some Disciples that hee had conuerted in that Countrey. Of the which there is no knowledge founde amongest them, more then this religious man hath declared, and sayde: that hee had beene in Canton, and from thence past to a small Ilande that standeth in the middest of the Riuer before the Citie, where there is a Monasterie of those Priestes gathered togither, and therein he sawe a Chappell, built high from the grounde, verie well made with certaine windowes gilded, wherein was the Image of a woman marueylously well made, with a Childe at her necke, and had before it the signe of a Lampe burning, and suspecting if it might bee anie rase of Christianitie, he did aske of those Priestes, and of other people that were there, what that Image did signifie: and no bodie coulde tell him, nor giue him any reason thereof, and so it coulde not bee determined, if by chance it were the Image of our Ladie that the Disciples of Saint Thomas did set there.

There is not in all this Realme anie Iewes, nor rase of them. And it may be well vnderstood, seeing that the most meate they eate is Porke flesh. Neither yet is there anie Moores, although there are some that haue discended of them,

them that are arriued thither from the Realme of Samarean, by trade of Merchandice, and of such as were conuerted of the Countrey, but the most part of them dyed by iustice. These which are now, are discended of such as were banished for great no offence into diuerse Prouinces, & therefore there are some in Canton, and others in Cansi, but as nowe they are few, and the children & childrens children of those which were banished, and borne of women of the Countrey of China, all of them do eate porke, and drinke wine, and there is no man of remembrance of the sect of Mahoma.

The xvi. Chapter sheweth of the order that may be had, wherby these people may turne to be Christians, and of the nauigation that is made from the newe Spaine, vntoo the Ilande of the West partes, called the *Philippinas*.

IF some religious men called Iesuites, it hath beene vnderstoode that they beganne too preache the Gospell too these people, but by reason that it is not permitted vntoo straungers too stay manie dayes in this Countrey, they were compelled too returne foorthwith without yelding that fruite whiche they desired, notwithstanding they found thē very apt to be taught, and

and willing to learne, and eaſie to be reformed of their falſe Idolatrie, and with al humilitie they receiue it, and acknowledged the corrections of their filthines. He that firſt began this Catholike woorke, was Maiſter Frauncis Xauierre, one of the ſeuen Religious men of the firſte confirmation of the ſaide companie, and was the firſt that came into Portingal, and that paſt into India, and from thence to China. But before he began to execute his Catholyke deſire, he died in Canton, and was brought from thence too Goa, where his body lyeth buried in the Colledge of Saincte Paule, of the ſame Religion. The Religious Dominike declareth that throwing downe certaine ſtones vpon the ground which they did woorſhippe, they came vnto him with ſuch rage as if they woulde haue killed him, but he pacified them foorthwith in geuing them to vnderſtand their little conſtancie & their vaine Idolatrie, and as they are of excellent witt, they foorthwith fell in to the matter, and thought well of his iudgement ſaying, that no man had euer taught them the like, vntill that time. And with the ſelfe ſame excuſe they excuſed them ſelues withall, when he did reprehende them of the filthie ſinne not too bee named, vntoo the which they are much giuen, thinking that they do not euil therein. But the greateſt difficultie that theſe religious men founde, was, that the gouerners and ordinary Iudges do attende with great care that no newe thing be taught amongſt them without order & licence of their king, and as they are rigorous and readie to chaſten, no man darre to bee a Chriſtian without licence, although that they vnderſtand it to be conuenient for their ſaluation: & therefore it doth import with expedition that theſe inconueniẽces be taken away, and that there be ſent an Embaſſador too this greate Prince. And in that Embaſſadge might go learned men, and Religious, that ſhould giue them to vnderſtande the darkenes wherein they liue, and too perſwade them to bee Chriſtians, and that he ſhoulde permit thẽ too preach the Goſpel throughout al his Realme, and howe that it is not hurteful too take from him his Lordſhippe and

gouern-

gouernement but rather fauorable, wherby his subiects may obey him the better. This will be easily obteined of him, & otherwaies for to attempte it by way of conquest, it will be so harde a matter as it may bee vnderstoode by his power and greatnes, and by that which is conteined in a Chapter of the relatiõ that the Captaine Artieda gaue to his Maiestie who was present at the cõquest of the West Ilandes w are called Philippinas, treating of this realme which worde for worde speaketh as foloweth. There are also to the Northwarde of these Ilãds the firme lãd which they cal China. It is a great Countrie, insomuch that it is certainely knowen that it boundereth with Tartaria, for the people that trade thither, say that they haue ware with them. They are a people very politike, they worke Iron with percers of steele. I haue seene golde and siluer wrought so well with Iron as coulde bee in the worlde, and in this sorte they worke thinges of timber and all other thinges. They saye that the Portingales, are good people, and that they haue a littell light of the world, but in comparison too them they see but with one eye. They spin golde as they doo in Milan, and weaue Damaske and other silkes with it. They haue all kind of armour as wee haue, and artillery Iudging it by certaine vesselles that I haue seene come from thence, that it is plaine and better cast thẽ our is. They haue so good gouernment, that they say they make neither Gouernor nor Captaine which is not a greate Astronomer. And first they shal pronosticate the tyme and chaunce that is too come, and it shall bee prooued and seene to fall out true, that hee may preuent any thing that is to come. In enery Citie and Prouince, there are garrisons of men of warre, they goe wel apparelled: they are as whyte as we are, and weare there beards long. The womẽ are very faire, although that all of them haue little eyes, they weare their coates and gownes so long that they touche the grounde, and they mãke their heare red with collours, and it is saide that they painte theyr faces. They say this king is of so great powre, that hee doeth bring into the fielde three hundreth thousande

men, and twoo hundreth thouſande of them horſemen. In thinges that are painted I haue ſeene brought from thence wherein are painted on horſebacke armed men with harneſſe and ſalets and lances. The countrie is ſo good and ſo well furniſhed with victaile, that it is thought to be the beſt & moſt fertile ſoyle of the world: The Moores that I haue ſpoken withall doo affirme that they bee not ſo warrelike as wee are.

They haue Mouldes and haue printed bookes tyme out of mynde. If it pleaſe your Maieſtie, that this Country bee ſeene with the ſight of the eyes: I doo offer my ſelf therevnto, geuing mee twoo Shippes of two hundreth and fiftie tõnes a peece, little more or leſſe, and 40. Souldiers in euery ſhippe and the Artillarie, Munition, and Victaile, ſufficient and neceſſarie, with Gods healpe carying ſome order of Embaſſadge to the Lorde of the Countrie to enter in with my perſon, and too returne all along the coaſt by the newe Spayne. And too ſee the order they haue as well for the trade with in the lande as for all the reſte if that will pleaſe your Maieſtie.

And in that which this Captaine ſaith that the king doth bring three hundreth thouſande men intoo the fielde, beſides the garriſons that he hath ordinarily in the Cities, & townes that doo border neereſt other Princes in this my opinion remaineth verefied. And although they be not ſo warrelyke as wee are, as the Moores haue declared, I knowe not what powre were ſufficient for ſo great a number of horſmen, and againſt people ſo wel armed, the Artillarie being ſo common to them as it is to vs. And ſeeing there is required that there ſhoulde paſſe thither, ſo greate a nauigation, and ſeeing this great Countrie doth fal within the compas of the conqueſt of our Catholike king, it wil be a thing of importaunce that his Maieſtie doo commaunde too ordeine this Embaſſadge with the good will of his holynes, whereby this Prince may reduce it to the gouernment of the holy Catholike Churche, whereof may growe greate effectes in the increaſing of the

Christian Religion. And this is very easie to be done, seeing that our Spayniardes are become so neere neighbors to that realme and the Nauigation soo neere and certaine as here in it is declared. There is in the new Spayne in the South part thereof twoo portes or hauens: the one is called Acapulco, which standeth in xvii. degrees, & a half of heigth which wil holde many shippes although they bee greate, and thother is called the Puerto de Nauedad, which hath the entry in of it very lowe, and standeth in nynetiene degrees and a terce large. From these portes do goe foorth the shippes that doo sayle too the Philippinas, and they goe too put themselues in the heighth that the course of the Iland is in, for the tyme when they goo foorth vpon this Nauigation which is in the ende of October the windes are alwaies Northerly in that coast vntil the end of Aprill: Wherewithal they goe with the winde in theyr poope running west, and from the ende of Aprill vntil the ende of October they turne too blowe at West Southwest, which serueth them too returne, rising vpp intoo a higher degree that they lack no height. They met at their going with the Ilands called Barbudos, for they were so named, for bicause such as do inhabite there, do let their beards grow long. These people are apparelled with mattes made of the bowes of date trees very fine, and they haue no weapons nor warre with any Countrie, and theyr vittaile are Cocos, and rottes and fishe, & they haue hennes lyke to those of Spaine, more towards the west. They turne & meete with the Ilands which they cal of the theeues which be xiii. and they lye in length North and South, the greatest may bee little greater then fourtie leages. They are al wel neere after one fashion and trade. The weapõs they haue be slings, & roddes dyped with the fire which doo serue them in place of lances. They shoote so farre with the slings that no hargubuse can shoott so far. They liue with Ryce and fish, Cocos & rootes, there are in thẽ great quãtitie of Ginger, & so beyonde that more towardes the West, they fal with the Ilandes of the Philippinas which are many. The Ilãd of Mindanas which

is the firste of the South side: it beginneth in fiue degrees in the height of the North: and it lyeth out shewing it selfe in length as the rest do, which stande as a company of trees in the Northnorthwest course, vntil you come into xiii. degrees and a terce, where you meete with the Iland of Luzon. This Iland is in length out vnto the nynetiene degree in the same course, there is in it three places inhabited with Moores, they know not perfectly of what secte they are of, but they giue reuerence to Mahoma: they eate no porke. They haue many riuers wherein they gather golde: & it is distant from this firme land of China lesse then one hundreth leages, and from the Cytie of Canton which falleth too the North part of it: one hundreth & thirtie, & little more. Our Spaniards are in possession of the said Iland, and by reason the trade is greate from it too the firme land and for the curious things that are come frō thence to the new Spayne, and from thence too his maiestie now they cal him China.

ALL that is written of the great lordſhip of China in this woorke, I haue gathered my ſelfe with great diligence and care of men worthie of faith; Portingals, that haue bene there with merchaũdiſe, & of other buzines; as alſo of the ſaide people of China, which haue come too Spayne: of whome I tooke that which I thought to be certaine, & moſt meete for this ſhorte diſcourſe.

are conteyned in this Booke.

THe first Chapter sheweth of the beginning that the kingdome of Portingale had, and of the succesſe it had vntil that the king *Don Iohn* the first conquered *Ceuta* in *Barbarie*.

The second Chapter sheweth of the diligence that the Infant *Don Henry* did make to come to the knowledge of the *Moores* of *Ceuta*, and of the Prouince of the Negros of *Iolofe*, and of the armed shippes which he sent in the discouerie of the coast of *Ginnea*, euen to his death.

The third chap. sheweth of the discouerie of the coast of *Ginnea*, in the time of king *Don Alonso* euē vnto his death: and of the persons which king *Don Iohn* his sonne sent by the Mediterrane Sea, that they might bring him relation of the state and trade of *India*, and of the Embassage hee sent to the kiug of *Æthiopia*.

The fourth Chapter sheweth howe the king *Don Emanuel* sent by the nauigation of the cape of *Buena Esperanca Don Vasco de Gama* with an Embassage to the king of *Calicute*, aud of the succesſe he had vntill hee returned too *Portingale*.

The fifth Chapter sheweth how the king *Don Emanuel* sent an other great army vnto the *India*, with *Pedraluarez Cabral*, and how he discouered in this voyage the coast of *Brasil*, as also of the rest of the shippes, that continually went vntil they gat *Malaca*, and so had knowledge of the coast of *China*.

The sixth Chapter sheweth of the description of the Countrey of *China*, and of the Prouinces and notable Realmes that are conteyned in it.

The seuenth Chapter sheweth of the temperature of the land, and the notable things that it bringeth forth.

The viij. Chapter sheweth of the greatnes of the cities, and temples, & buildings, that are in all the Countrey of *China*.

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The nienth Chapter ſheweth of their faces, apparel, and conditions of this people.

The tenth Chapter ſheweth of the nauigation the *Chinas* do make in the Sea, and in the Riuers.

The eleuenth Chapter ſheweth of the letters, & figures of the *Chinas*, and of their ſtudies ingenerall.

The xij. Chapter ſheweth how that of this great realme of *China* is King and lorde one onely Prince, and of his counſaile and Maieſtie, and of his houſe and Court.

The xiij. Chapter ſheweth of the Preſidents and Miniſters that are in euerie Prouince, and the order which they haue in the gouernment of them,

The xiiij. Chapter ſheweth of the gouernment and preuention that the king hath and doth for the ſucceſſe of his warres.

The xv. Chapter ſheweth of the Religion and Rites they haue, and the Ceremonies they vſe.

The xvj. Chapter ſheweth of the order that may be had, whereby theſe people might become Chriſtians, and of the nauigation which is made from the newe Spaine, vnto the Ilandes of the weſt partes called *Philippinas*.

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